

## RESOLUTION

### ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FISHING CONTROL

**The Baltic Assembly,**

**seeking that:**

fishing in the territorial seas and exclusive economic zones of the Baltic Sea States meet the requirements of international law as well as the interests of these States, while fish stocks of the Baltic Sea be preserved for future generations; and

the status of the Baltic Sea as a particularly sensitive sea area be taken into consideration when assessing threats to fish stocks of the Baltic Sea;

**assuming that:**

the state of stocks of some fish, especially cod, in the Baltic Sea is worsening;

strengthening of co-operation in the field of fishing control is the key measure for ensuring compliance with the effective rules. Information exchange may help restrict fishing, landing and trade in undersized cod, prevent from selling unregistered fish catches in the neighbouring countries;

**draws attention** to the fact that the institutions of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania which regulate and control fishing do not have a proper inspection vessel to exercise control of fishing in the Baltic Sea. Unfitted vessels of other institutions are used for these purposes. Under the effective EU regulations it is prohibited to sell undersized cod for human consumption. However, the processing industry is highly interested in supply of such cod; and

**calls on** the Baltic Council of Ministers to set up a working group whose tasks would be as follows:

to develop common measures on co-operation in the field of fishing control, a procedure for mutual information exchange among the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania in order to prevent landing of unregistered fish catches and ensure effective implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Vilnius, 17 December 2006