

S T A T E M E N T
ON DEMOCRACY IN BELARUS

The Baltic Assembly,

expressing sincere wishes to see Belarus developing into a flourishing and democratic state where all residents could enjoy the freedom to exercise their civil and political rights,

notes that the processes of formation of civil society based on democratic values and principles are intensifying in Belarus. The part of society which adheres to the said values and principles demonstrates its civil position by means of peaceful protest;

appeals to the Belarusian authorities urging to:

respect democratic expressions of civil society;

refrain from using force against peaceful protestors and participants in meetings;

release political prisoners;

not to undertake repressive actions against the opposition leaders.

Vilnius, 17 December 2006