



THE PRESIDUM OF THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY AND THE BUREAU OF THE BENELUX PARLIAMENT

DECISION ON PRIORITIES OF COOPERATION IN 2013 – 2014

The Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Bureau of the Benelux Parliament,

highlighting that cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Parliament gives both stakeholders added value within a larger European format and that closer cooperation and a uniform stance in the spheres of common interest will attach greater importance to the issues raised and will make it possible to affect favourably the course of the process;

being aware that cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Parliament aims at defining joint approaches to the opportunities and challenges of the broader European region;

emphasising the need to encourage deeper cooperation of the Baltic States and Benelux countries on parliamentary and governmental level in order to enhance deeper European integration, increase coordination of activities on the EU level, develop relations with the EU's Eastern neighbours, facilitate better coordination of policies, and take effective actions in areas of mutual interest;

underlining that the main goal of cooperation of both organisations is to promote deeper European integration, increase welfare, achieve political consensus, as well as facilitate economic stability and development,

have defined the following priorities of cooperation between both organizations for 2013 – 2014:

- Familiarisation with the EU legislation;
- Coordination of policies and activities in the fight against VAT and social welfare fraud;
- Food safety and health care;
- The UN Millennium Development Goals and contribution to the EU development cooperation;
- Development of research and innovation;
- Coordination of activities in the fight against organised crime (illegal migration, spread of drugs, fight against trafficking in human beings and prostitution).

Raimonds Vējonis
President of the Baltic Assembly

Marcel Oberweis
President of the Benelux Parliament

Luxembourg, 14 June 2013