



**PRESIDIUM OF THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY AND THE
BUREAU OF THE BENELUX PARLIAMENT**

DRAFT PRIORITIES OF COOPERATION FOR 2024-2026

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

emphasizing the vital role of the cooperation of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Parliament that allows both organisations to learn from each other's experiences and share the best practices in matters of mutual interest and of urgent nature;

acknowledging that the Baltic and Benelux states have firmly condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and have no illusions about the terrible impact of the actions of Russia, and **emphasizing** that the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Parliament are committed to jointly protecting their shared values such as democracy, rule of law and human rights within or outside the Baltic and Benelux states;

reiterating the importance of security, stability, interconnectivity and sustainability in Europe thus **aiming** for even closer Baltic-Benelux cooperation in security and defence, supporting the Eastern Partnership countries, ensuring interconnectivity in the field of transport, energy and infrastructure as well as advancing in the area of the circular economy;

appreciating the progress achieved in the mutual recognition of higher education diplomas and the exchange of experience in the digital area and **encouraging** closer cooperation between the Baltic and Benelux states in addressing challenges in education and digital transformation;

have **defined** the following priorities of cooperation between both organisations for 2024-2026:

- 1) security and defence with an emphasis on resilience, cybersecurity, and cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries;
- 2) transport, energy and infrastructure interconnectivity, including security and safety issues;
- 3) interconnected education systems and mutual recognition of qualifications in the Baltic and Benelux states;
- 4) circular economy and sustainable development in the Baltic and Benelux states;
- 5) digital transformation, including artificial intelligence, and mitigation of its negative impacts.

Timo Suslov
President
Baltic Assembly

Pim Van Ballekom
President
Benelux Parliament

Middelburg, 1 December 2023