

Protocol on Co-operation between the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers

In conformity with the Agreement on Parliamentary and Governmental Co-operation between the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania,

seeking to achieve more efficient co-ordination of activities,

The Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers determine the following order of co-operation:

1. The Baltic Council, a joint meeting that is summoned once a year during the spring session of the Baltic Assembly is the highest form of co-operation between the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers. Extraordinary meetings of the Baltic Council can be summoned according to the agreement between the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Heads of Government of the Baltic States.
2. Time, place and agenda of the Baltic Council are co-ordinated by the respective Secretariats of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers.
3. The Baltic Council is authorised to consider the issues on co-operation if not less than 2/3 of the members of the Baltic Assembly of each country together with the representatives of Government, from all the Baltic States, with the necessary credentials, are present. The Prime Ministers of the Baltic States or the Ministers for Baltic Co-operation shall participate at the joint session.
4. At the Baltic Council a representative of the chairing country reports on the work carried out by the Baltic Council of Ministers during the previous year.
5. The members of the Baltic Assembly may submit questions on Baltic co-operation to the Baltic Council of Ministers not later than one month before the Baltic Council. Additional questions on the relevant subject may be asked during the meeting.
6. The Baltic Council adopts declarations according to the principles of consensus.
7. The business of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers between the Baltic Council sessions takes the following forms:
 - 1) Joint meetings of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Heads of Government of the Baltic States or the Ministers for Baltic Co-operation
 - 2) Work between the related Committees of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers.
 - 3) Regular contacts between the Secretariats of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers.
8. Meetings of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Heads of Government or ministers for Co-operation of the Baltic States are held to consider the strategic issues of the Baltic co-operation. In these Meetings the representatives of the Baltic Co-operation Committee may take part.
9. The related Committees of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers hold joint meetings to discuss and agree on the common tactics and co-ordinated activities for the joint work in the related fields. The representatives of the Baltic Co-operation Committee may participate in these meetings.

10. The related Committees of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers, when preparing recommendations and documents on issues to be solved in the related fields, co-ordinate the views, submit and discuss proposals.
11. The Secretariats of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers ensure the exchange of necessary information, co-ordinate their activities and preparation of documents, and assist the related structures of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers in ensuring their co-operation.

Chairman of the
Presidium of the Baltic Assembly

Chairman of the
Baltic Council of Ministers

Ivars Kezbers

Laurynas Mindaugas Stankevicius

Vilnius, 14 April 1996