



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

PRIORITIES OF COOPERATION FOR 2022-2023

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

reaffirming the significance of the cooperation of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Parliament that allows both organisations to learn from each other's experiences and practices and **highlighting** the substantial prospects for future cooperation within this Decision;

underlining that the Baltic and Benelux states share common values such as democracy, rule of law and human rights and are prepared to voice their concerns jointly when these core values are endangered within or outside the Baltic and Benelux states;

emphasizing that the COVID-19 crisis has shown the fragility of cooperation between the countries and **acknowledging** that the cooperation of the Baltic and Benelux states need to continue to jointly address the challenges posed by COVID-19 but also to better prepare for future cross-border crises;

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

appreciating the progress achieved regarding the mutual recognition of higher education diplomas as well as the exchange of experience in the digital area, **encouraging** the continuation of close cooperation between the Baltic and Benelux states addressing challenges in education and digital transformation;

have **defined** the following priorities of cooperation between both organisations for 2022-2023:

- 1) exchange of information and practices to combat COVID-19 and mitigate the negative effects of the crisis, as well as to prepare for possible cross-border crises in the future;
- 2) security and defence cooperation with an emphasis on cybersecurity, and cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries;
- 3) digital transformation and mitigation of its negative impacts;
- 4) transport, energy and infrastructure interconnectivity;
- 5) circular economy and sustainable development in the Baltic and Benelux countries;
- 6) interconnected education systems and mutual recognition of qualifications in the Baltic and Benelux states.

Jānis Vucāns
Vice President
Baltic Assembly

Patricia Creutz
President
Benelux Parliament

Brussels, 10 December 2021