

AGREEMENT
ON BALTIC PARLIAMENTARY AND GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA,
THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

The Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania, (hereinafter referred to as "the Baltic States")

expressing the desire to develop mutual cooperation in the various spheres of mutual interest and to create a framework for the coordination of cooperation;

proceeding from the Treaty on Concord and Cooperation between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that was concluded in Geneva on 12 September 1934;

bearing in mind the Declaration on Concord and Cooperation of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania signed in Tallinn on 12 May, 1990;

referring to the experience and practice of the cooperation between the Parliaments and between the Governments of the Baltic States during the period of 1990 - 1994;

referring to the joint declaration of the Presidents of the Baltic States of 21 September 1993 and the Baltic Assembly Resolutions on the Baltic Council of 31 October 1993 and 15 May 1994;

expressing the desire to pursue the said cooperation between the parliaments and governments of the Baltic States;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Baltic States shall endeavour to develop cooperation in the spheres of foreign and security policy, defence, legislation, social and economic affairs, energy, communication, environment, culture and other fields of mutual interest and for this purpose negotiate bilateral and multilateral agreements which regulate cooperation in the respective spheres.

Article 2

The Baltic States hereby adopt an Agreement on Baltic Cooperation to regulate relations between the Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly.

The Baltic States may decide to establish special cooperation bodies in the framework of this agreement.

Article 3

The body for cooperation between the Parliaments of the Baltic States shall be the Baltic Assembly, based on the Regulations of Baltic Assembly signed in Tallinn on 8 October 1991 and as subsequently revised.

Article 4

The body for cooperation between the Governments of the Baltic States shall be the Baltic Council of Ministers, based on the Terms of Reference adopted in Tallinn on 13 June 1994 and as subsequently revised.

Article 5

The Baltic Council of Ministers shall have the power of decision when representatives from all of the Baltic States, with the necessary credentials, are present.

Decisions in the Baltic Council of Ministers shall be made on the basis of consensus. Decisions of the Baltic Council of Ministers are binding for the Baltic States.

Each state shall inform the Baltic Council of Ministers of the requirement of approval by their respective Parliaments before decisions are taken.

Decisions come into force after notifications of all necessary parliamentary approvals have been received by the depositary.

Article 6

The Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly shall hold annual joint sessions, called the "Baltic Council".

The Baltic Council of Ministers shall, at each annual joint session, submit a report on Baltic cooperation concerning the past year's cooperation and plans for further cooperation.

Article 7

The Baltic Assembly may make addresses, proposals and recommendations to the Baltic Council of Ministers.

In the Plenary Sessions of the Baltic Assembly members may submit questions to the Baltic Council of Ministers on matters concerning Baltic cooperation.

The exchange of current information between the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers shall occur via their respective secretariats.

Article 8

The Baltic Assembly has the right to state its views on major questions of Baltic cooperation during its intersessional periods.

Article 9

The Baltic Council of Ministers and Baltic Assembly shall seek to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with the Nordic Council, the Council of Baltic Sea States and other interstate bodies, bearing in mind the importance of regional cooperation in the European integration processes.

Article 10

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Baltic States. Before the Baltic States agree on amendments to this Agreement, the Baltic Assembly shall have an opportunity to state its views

Article 11

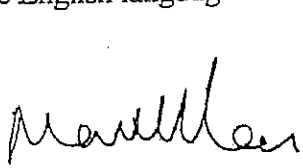
The Baltic States may terminate the Agreement after written notification to the depositary. The termination applies to the State giving notice, and shall take effect on the first day of the month commencing six months after the date the depositary receives the notification about the intention to terminate the Agreement.

Article 12

This agreement is subject to ratification by the Parliaments of the Baltic States. The original of the Agreement shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, acting as the depositary of the Agreement.

The Agreement enters into force thirty days after the last notification has been received informing that the internal legal procedures necessary for entry into force of the Agreement have been completed.

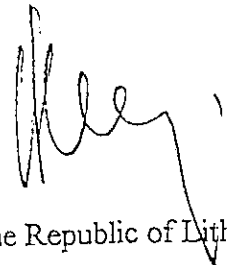
Done at in one copy in Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of divergency in interpretation the text in the English language shall prevail.



For the Republic of Estonia



For the Republic of Latvia



For the Republic of Lithuania