

JOINT DECLARATION





DECISION ON PRIORITIES OF COOPERATION IN 2015 – 2016

Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and Bureau of the Benelux Interparliamentary Assembly,

highlighting that cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Assembly 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;

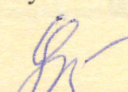
being aware that cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Assembly aims at defining joint approaches to the opportunities and challenges of the broader European region;

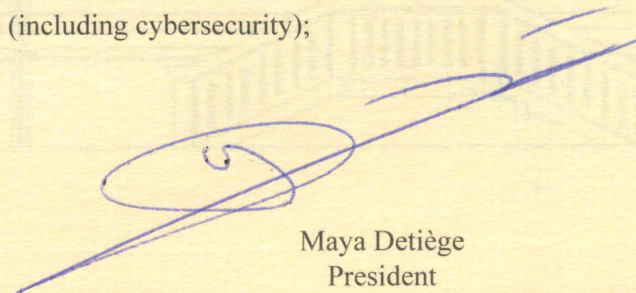
emphasising the need to encourage deeper cooperation of the Baltic and Benelux countries on parliamentary and governmental level in order to enhance deeper European integration, increase coordination of activities on the EU level, develop relations with the EU's Eastern neighbours, facilitate better 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, facilitate economic stability and development as well as develop a joint cluster that would conduct an active dialogue and work closely with the EU institutions, and with European partner organisations and countries;

have defined the following priorities of cooperation between both organisations for 2015 – 2016:

- Cross-border aspects of e-health;
- Labour mobility (recognition of diplomas, combating youth unemployment);
- Sustainable development – smart cities;
- Cooperation of law enforcement institutions to fight serious cross-border crime, including fight against trafficking in human beings;
- Development of regional networks with the EU Eastern Partnership countries;
- Cooperation on security and defence (including cybersecurity);
- Social dumping;
- Protection of privacy.


Giedrė Purvaneckienė
President
of the Baltic Assembly


Maya Detiège
President
of the Benelux Interparliamentary Assembly