

COMMON DECLARATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY AND THE BENELUX CONSULTATIVE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL
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This Declaration expresses the will of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council to establish a parliamentary cooperation and sets the directions, the priorities and the common interests of this cooperation.

All amendments to this Declaration will be discussed and decided by the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council.

The Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council declare to promote cooperation between the national assemblies represented at the Baltic Council and the Benelux interparliamentary Council in the fields mentioned under A and B. Therefore they will, in concertation, propose initiatives to their national assemblies, their national governments and for what concerns the Benelux, the general-secretariat of the Economic Union.

A. THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS :

1. Exchange of experiences concerning parliamentary activities, information- and training programs;
2. Legislation :
 - cooperation in the coordination of the legislation of the Baltic and Benelux countries;
 - foster exchange programs for legal experts;
 - exchange of documentation concerning legislation and legal reference materials;
 - protection of Human Rights.

B. COOPERATION IN SPECIAL AREAS :

1. Foreign policy : stimulation of the measures promoting the rapprochement between the Baltic States and Europe.

2. Communications :

- stimulation of the cooperation between the ports of the Baltic States and the Benelux;
 - reactivation of the cooperation between the cities and the municipalities of the Baltic States and the Benelux;
 - visa procedures among the countries.
3. Energy, market economy and environmental protection.
 4. Culture, education and science.
 5. Transfrontier cooperation.

The Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council declare to cooperate as follows :

C. ON THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION FORMS :

1. The Presidium of the Baltic Assembly or the Bureau of the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council can invite representatives of the Baltic Assembly or the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council to the parliamentary sessions organized by both parties.
2. The Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Bureau of the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council shall meet whenever necessary to discuss common issues.
3. With the agreement of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Bureau of the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council joint committee meetings can be organized.
4. The meetings of the secretariat of both assemblies shall be approved by the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Bureau of the Benelux Consultative Interparliamentary Council.

D. ON THE LEVEL OF THE PROCEDURES :

1. In case of exchange of delegations, the host Assembly makes beforehand, in concertation with the other Assembly, a detailed program of the activities. The program provides in joint meetings organized by the host Assembly which are the object of preparatory notes distributed in advance by both Assemblies.
A written report is made afterwards on every exchange of delegations.
2. The number of participants for exchanges as is meant under C of this declaration is determined in concertation and on a reciprocal basis.

3.

The composition of the delegations is determined by representativeness and expertise.

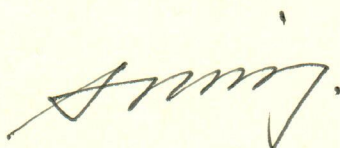
3. The travel expenses to the meetings shall be covered by the participants. The hotel expenses (bed and breakfast) of the official guests are covered by the host Assembly.

This declaration has been written in Dutch, English, Estonian, French, Latvian and Lithuanian. The six texts are authentic and of equal value.

The Hague, November 18, 1994.

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In the name of the Baltic Assembly



M. BUDOVSKIS
President.

In the name of the Benelux
Consultative Interparliamentary
Council.



Drs D.J.D. DEES
President.