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THE COMMON DECLARATION
OF PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY AND
THE BENELUX INTERPARLIAMENTARY
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
OF 23.03.2007

The Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council, amending the Common Declaration of Parliamentary Co-operation between the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council, signed in the Hague on 18 November 1994, have agreed to continue promoting the parliamentary cooperation between the Baltic and Benelux countries and to propose initiatives to their national assemblies, their national governments and the Benelux Economic Union.

The overall aim of Baltic – Benelux parliamentary cooperation is to promote democratic, socio-economic and cultural development of the Baltic and Benelux countries, to act as a vocal advocate of the specific challenges within the European Union and to provide political support for regional cooperation from a wider European perspective.

Areas of Cooperation

The Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council shall act in compliance with common priorities for co-operation, which shall be reviewed every two years and, where necessary, amended. The priorities for Baltic – Benelux parliamentary cooperation for the coming year shall be approved by the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council during the joint meeting of the presidiums.

There are two main areas of cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council. Each of these can be broken down into specific issues which can be addressed through joint forms of cooperation.

A. Cooperation on foreign policy issues

- Exchange of information and views in regard to the topicalities on the agenda of the European Union;
- Promoting of joint events which will ensure enlarged political and economical integration of the European Union;
- Exchange of information and views in regard to the topicalities on the international policy agenda;
- Promoting of democracy, the rule of law and human rights in the neighbouring countries of the European Union.

B. Cooperation on home affairs, justice and regional issues in fields such as

- Energy, market economy and environmental protection;
- Culture, education and science;
- Labour market, health care and social services;
- Civil security;
- Cross-border cooperation, infrastructure and communication.

Forms of Cooperation

The Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council have set the following modes of cooperation:

1. Joint meetings of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Bureau of the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council. The Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Bureau of the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council shall hold joint meetings to discuss and agree on common tactics and coordinated activities for joint work in related fields.

2. Joint meetings of the Committees of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council. The related Committees of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council shall hold joint meetings to discuss and agree on common tactics and coordinated activities for joint work in related fields.
3. The Secretariats of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council shall ensure the exchange of necessary information, coordinate their activities and preparation of documents, and shall assist the related structures of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council in implementing their cooperation.

Procedural forms of cooperation:

1. When planning joint events, the Secretariats of the Baltic Assembly and the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council shall prepare a detailed programme of the event. The host organization shall distribute organizational information on the planned event not later than 1 month in advance.
2. The number of participants (including experts) for joint events shall be agreed on by both organizations after assessing their financial possibilities.
3. Travel and hotel expenses to the joint events shall be covered by the participating organization. The hotel expenses of the official guests are covered by the host organization.

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



Ērika Zommere

President of the

Baltic Assembly



Roger Negri

President of the

Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council