



**Priorities of Cooperation
between the Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council
2020 - 2021**

Baltic and Nordic countries share common interests and values and jointly contribute to stability and prosperity of the Region. Our societies are based on deep respect for democracy, the rule of law, equality, human rights, trust in each other and democratic institutions and sustainable development. Rapid progress, common values, hard-working and civic-minded societies, commitment and effective solutions aimed at overcoming problems, have made the Baltic-Nordic Region unique in Europe.

Digital interconnectivity, security and defence, democracy, energy, transport and infrastructure, circular economy, climate change, health care and social issues, environmental protection of the Baltic Sea, research and education as well as cultural exchange are those strategically important areas where coordinated actions are needed for the region as a whole.

The Baltic and Nordic countries should aim to explore the possibilities for automatic mutual recognition of academic degrees in the same way as the Baltic countries have agreed to recognise each other's degrees.

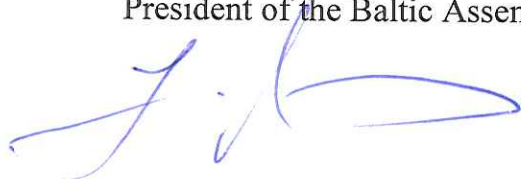
Current development and challenges require determined and pragmatic coordination of resources, effective decision-making and widely supported solutions. The Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council will defend common interests and promote welfare and development of the whole Region. Together we will work to ensure that the governments in the Baltic-Nordic Region, the Baltic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Council of Ministers follow up on what they have committed to. Together we will work to raise awareness of the serious social consequences of corruption. The Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council will work towards practical and future-oriented results for the people of the Region bilaterally and through relevant forums.

Through close coordination, based on mutual trust, shared values and a common vision, cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council in 2020-2021 will focus on the following priority areas:

- Comprehensive foreign and security policy, including climate and energy issues, societal security and promotion of democratic values;
- Climate change mitigation and environmental protection;

- Transport and infrastructure interconnections;
- Gender and intergeneration equality;
- Sustainable and interconnected energy market;
- Digital market and interconnectivity, artificial intelligence;
- Circular economy in support for sustainable development;
- Labour and academic mobility, vocational education and training.

Jānis Vucāns
President of the Baltic Assembly



Oslo, 9 December 2019

Silja Dögg Gunnarsdóttir
President of the Nordic Council 2020

