

RESOLUTION

ON THE RECOVERY OF THE FORMER EMBASSIES OF THE BALTIC STATES IN PARIS AND ROME

The Baltic Assembly,

reminding of the 60th anniversary of the criminal Molotov - Ribbentrop pact, signed by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union on 23rd August 1939, which resulted in the long years of Soviet occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania,

pointing out that in consequence of the Soviet occupation four former embassies of the three Baltic States in Paris and Rome were handed over to the Soviet Union and are presently used by the Russian Federation,

recalling Opinion No. 193 (1996) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Russia's request for membership of this organisation, in which it is stated that the Russian Federation has made a commitment "to settle rapidly all issues related to the return of property claimed by Council of Europe member states..." and Recommendation 1392 (1998) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,

calls on the Russian Federation to immediately fulfil the international obligations assumed by it upon joining the Council of Europe and to return the former embassies in Paris and Rome to their rightful owners, i.e. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and

calls on the competent authorities of France and Italy to mediate in the return of the property to its rightful owners.

Vilnius, 29 May 1999