

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **ON OBSERVATION OF CHEMICAL MUNITIONS DUMPED INTO THE BALTIC SEA**

Toxic substances and explosives contained in the chemical munitions dumped into the Baltic Sea by the Allied armed forces after World War II constitute a long-term threat to the environment of the Baltic Sea and to the population of the region.

In order to identify the scope of the problem and to reduce the potential threat and the anxiety of the population, it is necessary to maintain continuous observation of the condition of the said chemical munitions and explosives and their impact upon the marine environment, as well as to assess the possibility of eliminating the potential negative impact of these substances.

Therefore, **the Baltic Assembly,**

**being mindful** of the fact that all the Baltic Sea region countries have signed the Helsinki Convention on the protection of the environment of the Baltic Sea, that the Convention has been ratified by all the member states and is in force in the entire Baltic Sea area, and that it obliges all member states to cooperate openly and honestly;

**appreciating** the studies made on this issue by the Baltic Sea Environmental Protection Commission (the Helsinki Commission, or HELCOM) from 1992 to 1998 and the significant contribution of Denmark as the leading country in providing the necessary resources;

**taking into consideration** the fact that HELCOM has prepared its findings about the chemical munitions dumped into the Baltic Sea on the basis of studies made in 1994 and that since that time the situation in the Baltic Sea and our knowledge about the hazardous nature of the dumped munitions could have changed; and

**being aware** of its responsibility to the Baltic States and to the population of the countries of the entire Baltic Sea region,

**calls upon** the Governments of the Baltic Sea States to offer the Baltic Sea Environmental Protection Commission (HELCOM) all available archival and cartographic information about the places where chemical munitions have been chaotically dumped and **calls upon** HELCOM to make repeated studies in the Baltic Sea with a view to determining

potential polluted areas in it, assessing the potential danger presented by the chemical substances and the products of their disintegration, preparing solutions to reduce the potential threats and, on the basis of the new studies, to prepare new recommendations.

Vilnius, 29 November 2003