

## PROTOCOL

### OF THE MEETING HELD IN VILNIUS ON 24 MAY, 1996 BY THE OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LITHUANIA, ESTONIA AND LATVIA ON MUTUAL POLICY SEEKING THE ABOLITION OF VISAS WITH THE SCHENGEN GROUP STATES

Meeting of the officials from the Consular Departments of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Estonia and Republic of Latvia was held in Vilnius at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.

Visa policy of the Baltic States in respect to the Schengen Group was discussed during the meeting. Lithuanian and Luxembourgian mutual consultations on the steps to reach the agreement on visas abolition with the Schengen Group States were discussed too.

Referring to the principle of the Baltic States solidarity, members of the Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian delegations came to the agreement that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Baltic States should co-ordinate their activities in the course of consultations or negotiations with the Schengen Group States on issues concerning visas abolition and readmission.

With that end of view a working group was formed (see Appendix A) to meet on regular bases in case of necessity upon the request of each of the parties.

During the meeting it was agreed that Ambassadors of the three Baltic states will present notes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Brussels with their intentions to start negotiations on visas abolition and readmission agreements.

The form and content of the notes (see Appendix B) were adjusted at the meeting in order to make it acceptable for all parties.

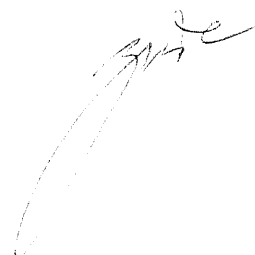
For Lithuanian side



For Estonian side



For Latvian side



## Appendix A

### CO-ORDINATION WORKING GROUP

Gediminas Šiaudvytis - Head of Visas division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Head of the group.

Vaidotas Verba - Head of Consular information and analysis division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Deputy Head of the group.

Rimgaudas Lošys - Second secretary of Consular treaties division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.

Tomas Gulbinas - First secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Brussels.

Vija Buša - Head of Operational division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, (Deputy Head of the group).

Uldis Simsons - Senior desk officer of Consular-Legal division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia.

Inita Dzene - Official of Operational division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia.

Sulev Roostar - Director General, Consular department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, Deputy Head of the group.

Andres Traat - Third secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Estonia to the Republic of Lithuania.

Appendix B

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of (.....) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and considering the presidency of Luxembourg to Schengen group states has the honour to propose to start the negotiations on abolition of visa requirements between the Schengen group states and the Republic of (.....).

The Ministry also has the honour to recall the final declaration of Benelux interparliamentary Consultative Council of December 9, 1995 on the co-operation between the Schengen group states and the Baltic states and thus to express the willingness of the Baltic States to start the negotiations in the earliest convenient time.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of (.....) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg the continued assurances of its highest consideration.

(.....), (..... ..), 1996.

The block contains three handwritten signatures or initials. The first is a large, stylized signature that appears to be 'G. J. ...' with the number '86024' written below it. The second is a smaller, more compact signature. The third is a very light, almost illegible signature.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG