

S T A T E M E N T

OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LITHUANIA, ESTONIA AND LATVIA on main trends for cooperation within the framework of the Baltic Council of Ministers

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, responsible for Baltic cooperation, met within the Baltic Council of Ministers on August 30, 1994, and discussed the matters pertinent to the practical implementation of the working structures within the framework of the Baltic Council of Ministers.

We deemed it important that common foreign and security policy together with the collaboration in the economic sphere between Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia be continued and properly developed in the light of strengthening regional cooperation as well as with the purpose to join European structures of political and economic integration and both regional and transatlantic security systems. We reaffirmed our commitment to contribute to the United Nations peacekeeping activities by establishing a joint Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion.

At the same time we came to the conclusion that it is necessary to concentrate the utmost joint efforts of the Baltic countries on cooperation in the fields of guarding external borders, crime prevention, the facilitation of border crossing between our countries as well as deepen the collaboration in the spheres of legislation, trade, finance and customs, social security, culture, education and science, energy supply and environmental protection, transport and communications.

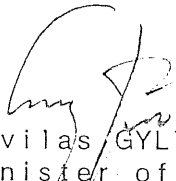
Proceeding from provisions of the Terms of Reference for the Baltic Council of Ministers as well as having the purpose to develop the Baltic cooperation in the aforementioned spheres, we consulted appropriate state institutions and hereby proposed the Governments of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia to establish the following Committees of Senior Officials:

1. Committee on Foreign Affairs.
2. Committee on Defence and Peacekeeping.
3. Committee on Finances, Currency and Customs.
4. Committee on Justice and Legislation.
5. Committee on Culture, Science and Education.
6. Committee on Environmental Protection.
7. Committee on Economic Issues.
8. Committee on Energetics.
9. Committee on Trade.
10. Committee on Construction.
11. Committee on Agriculture.

12. Committee on Forestry.
13. Committee on Transport and Communications.
14. Committee on Social Affairs.
15. Committee on the Prevention and Control of Crime.

We addressed the branch-ministers of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia to consider and finally agree on the Committees of Senior Officials enlisted above, and to present their proposals to the meeting of the Heads of Government of the Baltic states to be held on September 13, 1994 in Riga.

We expressed our joint approval to the "Regulations for the Committees of Senior Officials" and agreed to forward them for the consideration of the Heads of Government of the Baltic states.



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