

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY regarding the security and cooperation in the region

We, the members of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly, continuously concerned about the threats to the security of the region caused by the activities of Russia and Belarus,

regret the lack of courage on the part of the international community that has not been able to overcome the differences of opinion and stop the war atrocities executed by Russia in Ukraine;

strongly reiterate the fundamental necessity of the Member States of the EU and NATO to support Ukraine in every possible way to ensure the rapid victory of Ukraine thus protecting Ukrainian citizens from even more suffering and destruction;

highly appreciate the European Union agreeing to start membership negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova, signifying an important milestone for European integration;

fully support the joint letter of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland to the leadership of the European Union that calls for building a defence line along the border with Russia and Belarus to protect the EU from military threats and other harmful activities from the aggressor;

call for stepping up the cooperation between European countries and rapidly increasing investments to ensure the protection of the region from any military and hybrid threats.

President of the Baltic Assembly Vice President of the Baltic Assembly

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Andrius Kupčinskas Republic of Lithuania **Jānis Vucāns** Republic of Latvia **Timo Suslov** Republic of Estonia