PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT ON BALTIC PARLIAMENTARY AND GOVERNMENTAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA, THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

The Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as "the Baltic States"),

having regard to Article 10 of the Agreement on Baltic Parliamentary and Governmental Cooperation between the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania, signed in Tallinn on 13 June 1994 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"),

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Article 3 of the Agreement shall be amended and shall read as follows:

"The body for co-operation between the Parliaments of the Baltic States shall be the Baltic Assembly, acting in accordance with its Statutes."

Article 2

Article 4 of the Agreement shall be amended and shall read as follows:

"The body for co-operation between the Governments of the Baltic States shall be the Baltic Council of Ministers, acting in accordance with its Terms of Reference."

Article 3

Article 6 of the Agreement shall be amended and shall read as follows:

"The Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly shall act in compliance with common priorities for co-operation, which shall be reviewed annually and, where necessary, amended.

The priorities for Baltic co-operation for the coming year shall be approved by the Baltic Assembly and the Co-operation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers in their respective sessions during the Baltic Council.

The Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly shall hold an annual joint meeting, known as the Baltic Council, which shall include a session of the Baltic Assembly, a meeting between the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Co-operation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers, a meeting of the Co-operation Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers, and the report of the Chairman of the Co-operation Council to the Baltic Assembly session on co-operation between the Baltic States during the previous year, on activities related to the resolutions adopted by the Baltic Assembly during the year in question, and on plans for further co-operation."

Article 4

The original of this Protocol shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, acting as the depositary of the Agreement.

This Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the month following that in which the Baltic States notify the depositary of the Agreement in writing of the completion of all internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Protocol.

Done at Vilnius on 28th November 2003, in a single copy in the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and English languages, the texts in each of these languages being equally authentic. In the event of a divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Republic of Estonia

For the Republic of Latvia

For the Republic of Lithuania