

**Report by Mrs Irena Degutienė,
Chair of the Budget and Audit Committee of the Baltic Assembly
20 November 2015, Vilnius**

Report of the Budget and Audit Committee of the Baltic Assembly

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Budget and Audit Committee I would like to introduce you to the implementation of the Budget of the Baltic Assembly 2014 and draft Budget of the Baltic Assembly 2016 which has been submitted for consideration to all members of the Baltic Assembly.

Firstly, I will introduce you to the **draft report of the Budget of the Baltic Assembly 2014.**

Members of Budget and Audit Committee and Presidium have examined this report on implementation. Source of Baltic Assembly budget in 2014 were the membership fees from the national parliaments of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia in amount of **EUR 274,140**. In 2014, there was also a Presidency Fund in amount of **EUR 51,493**.

According to the report, **EUR 317,800** has been used to ensure the work of the Baltic Assembly in 2014.

As some of the planned events have been postponed to 2015, residual part of the budget has been included in the Budget of 2015. Budget of the Baltic Assembly has been used to ensure the following activities of the Baltic Assembly:

- Firstly, international parliamentary seminars of the Presidium and Committees;
- Secondly, cooperation with the Nordic Council, the Benelux Parliament, the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly as well as participation in the work of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference;
- Thirdly, organisation of the Session and the Baltic Council;

- Fourthly, Baltic Assembly Prizes in Literature, the Arts and Science and the Baltic Innovation Prize;
- Fifthly, the Secretariat;
- And finally, we had a special position – Presidency Fund, which was spent for marking the 25th anniversary of the Baltic Way and the 20th anniversary of the Baltic Assembly Prizes.

Detailed report on the expenses in all budgetary positions is available in our draft documents which have been submitted to all of us.

Secondly, I will introduce you to the **draft budget of the Baltic Assembly for 2016**.

I would like to underline that since the beginning of the financial crisis when we have decreased our expenses for more than 20%, we still remain the same level of the BA Budget.

In regard to the membership payments of the national parliaments, then for the next year the membership payment of the national parliaments of the Baltic States will remain on the same level as since 2009 and will amount to **EUR 91,380**. With the decision of the Presidium and the Budget and Audit Committee we have transferred funding in amount of **EUR 11,800** from the BA Budget 2015 to the BA Budget 2016.

When planning the Budget for 2016 as basis we took the Latvian presidency programme. The total of the BA Budget for 2016 is **EUR 285,940**. The main budgetary positions are the following:

- The 35th Session of the Baltic Assembly and the 22nd Baltic Council, expenses of which have been calculated **EUR 38,000**. This position remains on the same level as for 2015.
- For the work of the BA Presidium we have agreed on the allocation of **EUR 12,660**. This position has been decreased by 4.5% compared to 2015.
- For the internal meetings of the Budget and Audit Committee we have agreed on the allocation of **EUR 500**. This position remains on the same level as for 2015.

- For the international cooperation we have allocated **EUR 93,187**, which is 34 % of the total BA Budget.
- For the medals of the Baltic Assembly, BA basketball tournament and the website we have allocated **EUR 13,733**.
- For the Baltic Assembly Prizes in Literature, the Arts and Science and the Baltic Innovation prize we have allocated **EUR 54,052**.
- We have allocation for the BA Secretariat of **EUR 73, 208**.
- Unplanned expenses amount to **EUR 600**.

Detailed overview on the estimated expenses is in our draft documents which have been submitted to all of us.

Dear Colleagues!

If you have any question regarding the draft Budget Report 2014 or the draft Budget 2016, I am ready to give you answers.

Thank you for the attention!