

Speech of Prof. Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly,

at the

2nd CERN Baltic Conference 2022

National Center for Physical Sciences and Technology (Vilnius)

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Dear colleagues, scientists, experts and other participants,

It is my great honour and privilege to address you at this year's CERN Baltic Conference **on behalf of the Baltic Assembly**, an international organisation for cooperation among the parliaments of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

The **Baltic Assembly for the CERN Baltic Group is not something new**, as we have been involved in your work and the representatives of the Baltic Group have been involved in ours. I believe **we have established excellent cooperation** and for that, I want to thank you!

2022 has been a very active year for our cooperation. This has been a year when after COVID-19 pandemics **we renewed and stepped up our cooperation, established already in 2019.**

Our year started with a **visit of our Baltic Assembly delegation to CERN** in Geneva. During the visit, we had the excellent possibility to see the work of CERN in real life and talk with the scientists and **new talents of particle physics in the Baltic States.** The Baltic parliamentarians could meet the CERN Baltic Group, CERN Director for International Relations Charlotte Warakaule and other representatives of the organisation and visit also many important areas of CERN. During the meeting with the CERN Baltic Group, we heard about the project "**Advanced Particle Therapy Center for the Baltic States**". This project was also discussed later in June when we met in Tallinn during the meeting of the Health, Welfare and Family Committee of the Baltic Assembly. The **project received a lot of support from the Baltic parliamentarians** and we have already made the first steps to speed up the evaluation process.

As the president of the Baltic Assembly, I am grateful to Professor Toms Torims for his contribution to the advancement of this project and the great explanatory work he and his colleagues have done to introduce the Baltic politicians to the project's goals and conceptual solution. I am also grateful to him for the opportunity to meet with the President of the CERN Council, Professor Eliezer Rabinovici, during his visit to Riga, to discuss the format of cooperation between the Baltic Assembly and CERN, and also to talk about support for this specific project led by the CERN Baltic Group and to promote its successful implementation. We from the side of the Baltic Assembly will do our best to make it happen. We will do our best to make it happen.

In May, the representatives of the CERN Baltic Group participated in the **conference of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers** dedicated to education, science and innovations in the Baltic States. We were glad to hear about the benefits that the Baltic States have - due to active involvement in CERN, but we also see that there is still an unused potential that we – the parliamentarians – have to help to reach with the means available for us. **Fostering cooperation of the Baltic States in education, science and innovations is a high priority in the Baltic Assembly** and the CERN Baltic Group has shown the **same commitment to Baltic cooperation in particle physics**. That is very important for us.

This year we have analysed the work of our governments regarding CERN. **The Baltic States have carried out different national and joint actions**. All three countries have made significant financial contributions to work with and within CERN which shows that countries are serious about this area of cooperation. Activities that we see in 2021 and 2022 show also that the cooperation between the Baltic States in CERN-related areas is good and improving.

At the end of October, during the **annual Session of the Baltic Assembly**, we will adopt the **Resolution of the 41st Session**. In our resolution, we have expressed **strong support for the joint initiative of the CERN Baltic Group and CERN** on

Advanced Particle Therapy Center **and highlighted the importance of the initiative as an integrated flagship project for the Baltic States.**

We have also decided to add **two new recommendations to our government in this regard: firstly, to assess the joint initiative of the CERN Baltic Group and CERN on Advanced Particle Therapy Center; and, secondly, to engage the corresponding ministries, national agencies and relevant stakeholders and to jointly apply for co-financing from the European Union** for implementing the joint initiative of Advanced Particle Therapy Center for the Baltic States.

We will also continue to recommend our governments to:

- 1) **enable potential, which the cooperation with the CERN provides,** to the development of science, research and technology in the Baltic States;
- 2) **allocate corresponding financial support** within the States' budgets which should be equal on the national level to the amount of membership paid to the CERN;
- 3) **consider the possibility to establish a CERN Internship Programme** for the students of the Baltic states.

At the end of my address, I want to highlight that the **Baltic Assembly is convinced that cooperation in education and research of the Baltic States is vital - research, knowledge and data of three countries are much more comprehensive and could allow us to achieve much more.** We are going to continue to follow the developments in the Baltic cooperation with CERN and continue to ask our governments to contribute to this important goal.

I thank you for the invitation to address the CERN Baltic Conference and **I wish you all result-orientated and very interesting sessions.**

Thank you very much!