



BALTI ASSAMBLEE
BALTIJAS ASAMBLEJA
BALTIJOS ASAMBLĒJA

Mrs. Charlotte Dyremose
Chairperson of the Education Committee
of the Folketinget

Mr. Kristian Thulesen - Dahl
Chairman of the Economics Committee of
the Folketinget

cc:

Henrik Dam Kristensen
Chairman of the Nordic Council's Danish delegation

Kamilla Kjølgaard, Head of Section
Peder H. Pedersen, Head of Section

6 January 2011
1/0111-23

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Baltic Assembly I would like to inform you that we are organizing the roundtable discussion "The capacity of the region to develop: human capital and knowledge-based economy" to be held on 11 February 2011 in Tallinn, Estonia.

Competitiveness of the countries and regions is closely connected with a set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country or a region. In order to ensure competitiveness of a country or a region, research and education, innovation and technologies, must be defined as the decisive pillars. Human capital is the key strategic instrument for ensuring success in the global economy; however during the recent years our region has lost considerable ground in the race to knowledge economy.

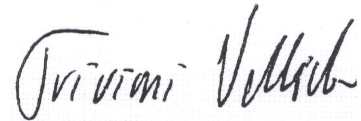
In the case of the Baltic States, the most sensitive issues are connected with such challenges as migration, aging of population, brain drain, decrease of funding from the state budget for research and development, and weakening of the private sector. Despite the close political and economic cooperation existing among the Baltic States, there is a great need for more common initiatives to stimulate closer cooperation in developing human capital, being the basis to strengthen the competitiveness of the region and the key strategic instrument to ensure success in the regional and global economy. The EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the transposition of experience of the Nordic cooperation in research and innovation are only some of the most visible tools the Baltic States can use in order to increase their competitiveness.

This parliamentary discussion will focus on the following topics: firstly, the development of innovative entrepreneurship, and secondly, the correlation between research and business from a regional perspective.

Allow me to reassure the determination expressed in the Annual Summit of the Nordic Council and the Baltic Assembly to establish a more pragmatic and result-oriented cooperation between the Nordic Council and the Baltic Assembly, and develop a closer framework of cooperation with the standing committees of the Nordic and Baltic national parliaments. Therefore on behalf of the Baltic Assembly allow me to invite up to

two members from the respective standing committees of your parliament to participate in the above-mentioned roundtable discussion. Please find attached the programme of the discussion, and inform us about your participation by 1 February 2011 at the latest.

Sincerely,



Trivimi Velliste
President of the Baltic Assembly

Contact persons: Ene Rongelep, +372 6316396, Ene.Rongelep@riigikogu.ee
Silga Lejasmeiere, +371 67225178, Silga.Lejasmeiere@baltasam.org