

Dear colleagues,

We believe that the work of the Baltic Forum, including organization of its annual conferences, is based on several important postulates.

1. The belief that power is a primary and decisive means to solve problems in the modern globalized world does not ensure the achievement of selected objectives and is counterproductive, as it finally leads to aggravation of existing controversies and evolution of new problems.

2. It consequently means that the real resolution of conflicts in the world, in which people are increasingly dependent on one another and mutually connected, is only possible through discussion characterized by the willingness of each party not only to defend its views, but also to clarify and understand reasons and motivation of the other party, thus replacing confrontation with mutual constructive cooperation for the sake of elaboration of a solution satisfactory for both parties.

3. Globalization is evidence not only to the commonness of humankind but also to its variety and diversity of value systems, which makes any attempt to secure its continual development based on a single truth – verities of a single system of values – doomed to fail. No one has or may have the monopoly for truth. Furthermore, a single truth is never the only one or complete one.

4. The Baltic Forum is committed to creation of possibly better conditions for a free and constructive discussion, in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of problems by all interested parties, thus, stimulating cooperation in the field of elaboration of mutually acceptable solutions. However, the Baltic Forum has never afforded or should afford in the future to use its events as propaganda of narrow interests of a single party or a group.

Every participant of the international conferences organized by the Baltic Forum has agreed to the provision that they should offer the chance of free expression to our experts in social sciences, politicians and businesspeople, so that they could discuss the most burning and complicated issues of modernity on the highest professional level (especially those related to globalization and promotion of relations between the Baltic States - EU - Russia) with influential experts from the USA, Belarus, Estonia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Scandinavia, Ukraine, Germany and other countries.

We suppose, these conferences offer a number of opportunities to participants from Latvia, which cannot be found elsewhere in official forums or scientific congresses. The former assemblies restrict the freedom of informal contact and exchange of information; the latter are primarily theoretic ones.

We hope that this annual conference will maintain the high standards of the former conferences and raise them to a new level of quality.

Sincerely,

Jānis Urbanovičs
President of the Baltic Forum