

**Speech of BA Vice President Jānis Vucāns for the
European Conference of Presidents of Parliament**

15 October 2026, between 11:00 and 13:00, Rome

Time allocated: 5 minutes

THEME 1: RESILIENT DEMOCRACIES: UNITED AGAINST HYBRID THREATS

Your Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

Today, I address you **on behalf of the Baltic Assembly**. We are parliamentarians from Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, united not only by geography and history, but **with a great responsibility for Europe's democratic future**.

Today, the **future of democracy in Europe depends on Ukraine and on our strength, unity, and determination to act together** and bring an end to this tragedy caused by Russia.

For more than four years, Ukrainians have defended their homes, freedom, and future against Russia's war of aggression. The **Baltic States stand firmly with Ukraine**. Our support is rooted in our history and in the understanding that **Ukraine is defending the principles on which Europe's security depends**.

The Baltic Assembly will continue to support Ukraine. For us, **solidarity means action**: helping Ukraine defend itself, keeping pressure on Russia, and standing with the Ukrainian people for as long as it takes.

But we must also remember that the **fight against aggression goes far beyond the battlefield**.

Another battle is being fought every day - **against our institutions, our systems, our information space, and the trust that keeps our democracies strong.**

The **Baltic States** know first-hand what hybrid attacks mean.

We face cyberattacks, spying, attacks on our infrastructure, disinformation, GPS interference, drones in our airspace, and the use of migration as a tool against our borders.

The methods may differ, but the goal is the same: **to create fear, test our security, disrupt our daily lives, and weaken public trust.**

All this is happening now.

In August, a **fire broke out at an Estonian defence company** in Tallinn. Estonian authorities later said the attack was planned and ordered by Russian security services.

Around the same time in Latvia, **NATO fighter jets shot down a foreign drone over Balvi.** It had entered Latvian airspace due to Russian electronic warfare.

And just last month, **Lithuania detected a cyberattack on a government system.** New security measures helped to stop the attack before it could cause further harm.

Three countries. Different attacks. One clear message: **resilience is no longer just part of our security. It is our security.**

This is why the Baltic Assembly works to strengthen our democracies and regional cooperation. Our experience has taught us one clear lesson: **no Baltic State can face these threats alone, and no European democracy should have to.**

We must protect our cyber systems and infrastructure together. We must share information quickly and help our people recognise disinformation. Our democracies must remain open, free and united when others try to divide us. Because resilience is not only about stronger firewalls, better radars or more secure borders.

Resilience is trust. Resilience is preparedness. Resilience is solidarity.

And nowhere is resilience shown more clearly and bravely than in Ukraine.

Colleagues,

As long as Russia's war against Ukraine continues, **we must be ready for hybrid threats against our region.**

That is why **Europe must remain united and strong.**

Europe must continue to give Ukraine the political, military and financial support it needs. We must strengthen our own defence while helping Ukraine defend itself. **And we must protect our democracies while staying true to our values.**

Above all, we must remember this:

- Hybrid threats are designed to divide us, and **our answer must be unity.**
- They are designed to frighten us, and **our answer must be courage.**
- They are designed to weaken democracy, and **our answer must be more democracy.**

The Baltic States learned long ago that **freedom cannot be taken for granted.**

Today, together with Ukraine and our European allies, we must prove something equally important. **Freedom, when defended together, is stronger than fear.**

Thank you.