

OSCE HDIM 2016

Estonia - Right of reply

Written reply to the written statement of LICHR

Working Session 12 Fundamental freedoms I (continued), including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief

27 September 2016

This is a written reply to the written statement distributed by LICHR

Estonia highly values freedom of expression but we have to differentiate the rights and freedoms of expression and rules regulating the entrance into the country.

We would like to reiterate that all sovereign states are free to control and decide on the entry of foreigners. It is important to stress that this principle is in full accordance with principles of international law as well as relevant OSCE commitments. Thus it is possible to refuse entrance in these cases based on law and states are not obliged to substantiate or justify these decisions.

With the regard to the black-list and inclusion of individuals to this list to whom entrance to the country is prohibited on security grounds, we would like to explain that everyone can check whether his or her name is in the list at the webpage of the Ministry of Interior.

As concerns the cases mentioned, the persons have had access to the decisions prohibiting them entry into the country, they had used their right to challenge these decisions before the court. The courts have reviewed the decisions and upheld them.