



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF LITHUANIA
AT THE 967th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON 17 OCTOBER
2013 IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

We took note on the information provided by our distinguished Russian colleague, which will be dully passed to my capital. As relates the issue of retransmission of the “First Baltic Channel Lithuania” programs in Lithuania, I would like just to stress in my national capacity, that Commission of the public broadcaster of Lithuania took the decision, which was confirmed by the court, to request national broadcasters to suspend temporally [for the three months period] retransmission of some of the “First Baltic Channel Lithuania” programs, strictly following the existing national laws [Law on the provision of the information to the public] and the Council of Europe convention “On Transfrontier Television”. Functioning of the “Fist Baltic Channel Lithuania” is not suspended, neither are activities of any Lithuanian companies related to this channel.

This raised issue has nothing to do with the violation of rights to freedom of expression or restriction of freedom of the media. The deliberate and targeted spread of hate and false information is primarily related to the attempts against the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania, its territorial integrity and political independence, and the denial and trivialization of the crimes committed by the Soviet forces against the Republic of Lithuania and its citizens in the tragic days of 13 January 1991.

Freedom of the media cannot be associated with targeted efforts to derogate those who died in defence of Lithuanian independence and democracy and for the protection of freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

Additionally, I would like to remind that according to the Criminal Code of Lithuania, public denial of crimes committed against the Republic of Lithuania and its citizens by Nazi and Soviet regimes bears criminal prosecution.

Mr. Chairperson,

Lithuania has always encouraged media freedom and freedom of expression and I would like to reassure that Lithuania strictly adheres to the taken OSCE commitments in the human dimension area, in particularly to freedom of expression and freedom of the media. This issue was the main priority of the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2011 and is given increased attention during the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council this year.

I thank you.