

OSCE HDIM 2016

Estonia

Right of Reply

Working Session 6 Fundamental freedoms I

22 September 2016

Thank you, Mr Chairperson,

Given the importance of the issue of Freedom of Media and Freedom of Expression to Estonia,

I would like to give a short reply to the accusations presented by the representative of Rossiya Segodnya on claimed restrictions of the entry of Russian journalists to Estonia.

Estonia highly values media freedom and freedom of expression.

This was once more confirmed in 2016 World Press Freedom index where Estonia holds 14 position out of 190 countries.

But we have to differentiate the rights and freedoms of journalist and rules regulating the entrance into the country.

Estonia has witnessed cases where RU journalists have tried to enter the country with Schengen tourist visas, while they were travelling on other purposes.

In short, they should have had visa for a relevant purpose and it had nothing to do with restricting the rights and freedoms of the journalists.

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 the principles of international law as well as relevant OSCE commitments, and should not be put under question, especially not with political purposes.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.