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Working Session 1

To whom:

*Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
President of The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Director of the ODIHR
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee of the Permanent Council*

Statement

In Latvia of Octobers, 2 once again ununiversal elections took place in national parliament (10th Sejm).

In parliamentary elections in Latvia again not able to participate 344 095 non-sitizens (15,26 % habitants), from them 65,9 % are Russians (36,5 % Russians of Latvia), and all the representatives of national minorities - 99,6 %. Here absolute majority of non-sitizens or were born, or live in Latvia 20-30 and more than years.

On November, 8, 2002 the Special committee of the Parliamentary assembly of CE, estimating taking place in October, 2002 elections in 8th Sejm, acknowledged that from abstention in elections of non-sitizens there was an long - term democratic deficit in Latvia. About existence in Latvia of "deficit of democracy" talked also in the Final lecture on parliamentary elections in Latvia of 2002, which on was November, 20, 2002 presented by Bureau on the institutes of democracy and human rights of OSCE.

After elections of 9th Sejm the Limited mission on watching elections of Bureau on democratic institutes and human rights of OSCE and Limited short-term mission on watching elections of the Parliamentary assembly of OSCE in the statement for the press from October, 8, 2006 marked also, that "approximately 400 000 persons, or about 18 percents of population, still save status of "non-sitizens". Non-sitizens have no authority to vote on any elections in Latvia. Circumstance that substantial part of adult population does not have the right to vote, testifies to continuing to take place deficit of democracy".

Realization of elections in the conditions of deficit of democracy had the investigation a decline of level of trust to their results from the side of international structures. Leader of the Limited mission on watching elections of 9th Sejm from Bureau on democratic institutes and human rights of OSCE an ambassador Boris Frlec in this connection marked: The "large impression on me was produced by a wide public trust which is used by the process of elections

in Latvia. ***However this trust can be full, while citizenship, including voting right, remains a question for considerable part of population"***.

Maintenance of practice of realization of ununiversal elections in Latvia results in discrimination of national minorities in cultural and language spheres, and also in the field of labour. The special alarm is here caused by that maintenance of institute of non-sitizens assists forming of terms which result in the revival of nazism in Latvia.

Whereas, maintenance of practice of ununiversal elections in Latvia presents a direct and obvious threat to bases of democracy in Europe, as legitimates actual application of double standards to realization of elections in different countries, and also taking into account that this practice assists the revival of nazism in Latvia, the 3th conference of organizations of the Russian compatriots of Latvia (Riga, on June, 26, 2010) made decision to appeal to the international association with an appeal to do all possible for immediate liquidation of institute of non-sitizens in Latvia and realization of the first after 1991 general election in local authorities, national parliament and European Parliament. We call you, respected

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to support this decision and bring in the feasible contribution to the matter of immediate liquidation in Latvia of institute of non-sitizens and realizations in this country of the first after 1991 general election in the national organs of power.

***With kind regards,
Victor Gushchin,
director of the Baltic center of historical and socio-political researches,
co-ordinator of Association of ungovernmental organizations of Latvia,
chairman of organizational Committee of 3th conference
of organizations of the Russian compatriots of Latvia (Riga, 2010.26.06)***

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