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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1116th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 October 2016

On the unveiling of a bust of a former member of the SS in Estonia

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that we have been obliged to draw the Permanent Council's attention to the increasing attempts to glorify Nazi criminals and their accomplices in certain OSCE participating States.

On 22 October, a bronze bust of the former member of the Estonian SS division Harald Nugiseks was unveiled at a school in Laupa in Estonia. He voluntarily joined the ranks of the SS unit and was even among the few foreign citizens to be awarded the Knight's Cross – the highest military order of the Third Reich. Do I need to specify for what services?

After he was buried with military honours in a military cemetery in 2014, the Estonian authorities have now decided to immortalize his memory in an educational institution. As was said at the ceremonial unveiling of the bust, he will facilitate "the growth of patriotism among the students and their love for their motherland". Is this really a worthy example for schoolchildren? I would remind you that we are talking about a member of an SS division – a punitive structure considered to be a criminal organization by the Nuremberg Tribunal. Evidently, the Estonian authorities have decided to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the Nuremberg Trials in their own unique way.

Such a step is not merely an affront to the memory of the tens of millions of victims of the Second World War, including 27 million Soviet citizens, but also a further unacceptable attempt to falsify the history of this bloodiest of wars. Those who do this should realize that the glorification of Nazi war criminals bolsters the idea of racial superiority and violates not only OSCE commitments but also the fundamental international principles enshrined *inter alia* in the Charter of the United Nations. I urge you to think about the consequences of such a policy and of indulging it.

Thank you for your attention.