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Eesti Vabariigi Alaline Esindus OSCE juures

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia  
to the OSCE

2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, Working Session 12

Estonian delegation, Right of reply

Madam Moderator,

Since my country has been mentioned today I would like to use the right of reply to comment on some of the claims made here.

First, regarding the language of the education. Estonia is providing and will continue to provide education in and of minority languages. The transfer to partial instruction in Estonian has taken several years of preparation and only concerns secondary schools, where 60% of curricula has to be taught in Estonian. The measure is intended to improve the command of state language to grant the youth belonging to national minority groups better access to higher education and labour market, very much in line with what the High Commissioner has said this morning.

Secondly, the accusations of "glorification of Nazism" are not valid. Vice versa, Estonian government has repeatedly condemned the crimes of Nazis and other totalitarian regimes. Such accusations are merely attempts to misinform, create mistrust in the Estonian society, only serve some propaganda interests, and are deeply offensive to our people. My authorities have also strongly reacted to the publication of the advertisement mentioned today. Quoting our Foreign Minister: "The attempt to turn the issue of so many people suffering into some kind of joke was absolutely unacceptable and out of place."

Finally, let me reconfirm that Estonia highly values the work of the HCNM Mr. Vollebaek and will continue cooperation with this institutions, as well as other international organisations and institutions dealing with the rights of national minorities.