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Session 2. Integration of diverse society and The Ljubljana Guidelines

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Ljubljana recommendations: The European theory and practice of the Latvian

Ljubljana recommendations to claim 6, said that "The assimilation of the state or a third person against the will of the individual is prohibited." And then, in the methodological guidance clarifies that in addition to the prohibition of forced assimilation, banned sophisticated and less obvious form of "creeping assimilation" in the form of public pressure, establishing a hierarchy between the different ethnic groups spread prejudices that are carried out by both state and by non-state actors .

In Latvia, since 1991 held the assimilation of Russian national minority in the compulsory form and the "creeping" form. One of the most important forms of the "creeping assimilation" is the destruction of Russian culture.

Here are three illustrative examples.

1. In Latvia almost no public funds for maintenance of Russian culture at the professional level: closed exhibition in the museums of more than three hundred years of the history of Russian life in the area, there are no Russian professional singing and dancing ensembles, unprofessional Russian creative ensembles are not allowed on organized state Republican parades, such as holiday songs and dance, etc. And this despite the fact that Russian is 40% of the population, are serviceable taxpayers and to contribute to the state budget.

Authorities even hinder the organization of performances Russian amateur creative teams, paid for a private account. For example, in the summer of 2014 the authorities in Riga refused three times to the Congress of aliens in concerts of Russian music under the slogan "We are for change." The concert was planned to dedicate the theme of conservation education in Russian. The grounds for the ban were the conclusion of the Security Police. No other concert in Riga for a decade has not been banned.

2. Ability to maintain identity in Russian Latvia existed due to the fact that it came to the artists from Russia. However, these opportunities have disappeared in the last year. In the summer of 2014, Foreign Minister Eduard Rinkevich included in the black list, going on tour to Latvia Russian Singers I. Kobzon, Gazmanov and Valeria. Now these artists 10 years cannot come to Latvia, and to act in such a way to maintain the identity of the members of the Russian community. And it all happened because police security provided to the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs certificate, which accused the artists that they are "apologists of imperialism and aggression." I illustrate the content of "aggression", which is contained in the song of the singer Valeria "Riga-Moscow" in the opinion of the Latvian "cloak and dagger".

"Flight delay" Riga - Moscow "to six in the morning,

And I do not know how to pass the night.

In the dark sky arrival time - starry scoreboard

Not the astronomer I am, that I solve it exactly.

Three lights from the constellation Virgo

Twinkle in the distance.

Riga-Moscow.

Through the clouds

Three lights from the constellation Aries

Call me to you.

Riga-Moscow.

I'm waiting for you".

3. Most recent example. In Latvia on the road going to the Academic Song and Dance Ensemble them. Aleksandrov.

Part of the ruling coalition in parliament the party "National Union" appealed to the Latvian Foreign Ministry with a request to prevent touring ensemble: "To ensure the safety of Latvia, ask participants to ban the entry of the ensemble." Foreign Minister E. Rinkevics called repertoire "provocative and unacceptable."

To campaign against the Russian culture at the end of October this year, he joined the president of Latvia R. Vejonis. He said: "I personally would still not allow the performance of the ensemble in Latvia. songs [ensemble] expressed and promoted the values do not meet the European".

These are just three examples of the infinitely wide practice of "creeping assimilation" of the Russian population by senior officials and political parties in Latvia.

My advice OSCE leadership to send the texts of the recommendations of the Ljubljana senior officials of Latvia, and separately in a security police, so that they can become familiar with what the European values.