



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO THE UN, ENGLISH only
OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement by Ambassador Gints Apals, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia

Permanent Council No.929,
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Mr Chairman,

As colleagues have noticed, Russian Federation regularly expresses its concerns about the rebirth of Neo-nazism. In addition, the Russian Federation has submitted a draft OSCE ministerial decision on combating aggressive nationalism, violent extremism, neo-Nazism and neo-Fascism. We share these concerns. Therefore we would like to bring to the attention of the Council the following:

- On November 4 a march in the very centre of Moscow gathered thousands of people under the Nazi, neo-Nazi and racist symbols^[1].
- Hands were raised in Nazi greetings, and neo-Nazi, racist slogans displayed, let me just mention a couple - "*Enough feeding the Caucasus!*", "*Power for Whites*", "*Russian schools for white children*".
- Hundreds of youth united under the slogan "Russian time 14:88"^[2], "Russian Order in Russian Land" and marched uninterrupted.
- Media reports that antifascist protesters were attacked and brutally beaten up by neo-Nazis after the event.

These are serious, worrying expression of extremism and intolerance.

Therefore, we would like to receive a clarification by the Russian delegation what decisive actions, in line with its international commitments, the Russian government has taken and is planning to take to fight hate ideologies, hate speech and intolerance.

Indeed the freedom of assembly has to be guaranteed in accordance to international commitments and we expect the Russian Federation to abide by them.

However it is a duty of governments to prevent the spread of totalitarian ideologies.

Thank you very much for your attention.

^[1] The **SS Division Totenkopf** ("Death's Head"), also known as 3. SS-Panzergrénadier-Division Totenkopf and 3. SS-Panzer-Division Totenkopf, was one of the 38 divisions fielded by the Waffen-SS during World War II. The division is infamous due to its insignia and the fact that most of the initial enlisted soldiers were SS-Totenkopfverbände (SS concentration camp guards).

^[2] The **Fourteen Words** is a phrase used predominantly by white nationalists. It most commonly refers to a 14-word slogan: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White Children." White nationalists sometimes combine the number 14 with 88, as in "**14/88**" or "1488". The 8s stand for the eighth letter of the alphabet (H), with 'HH' standing for "Heil Hitler".