



Statement by Representative of the Delegation of the Republic of
Latvia in response to the statement of the Delegation of the
Russian Federation under agenda item “Current issues” at the
Permanent Council Meeting No. 508 on 27 May, 2004 .

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Commenting on what the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation has just said, I would not like to go into detailed discussion on the issues of the various aspects of society integration in Latvia. Our delegation has on number of occasions informed the Permanent Council about these issues.

It seems really that Russian Federation is the only country not sharing the assessment of the OSCE and also other international organizations on the human rights situation in Latvia.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to make only some brief comments on the recently by Latvian Parliament adopted amendments to the Law “On the status of former USSR citizens who do not have the citizenship of Latvia or that of any other state”. The amendments were adopted in the third reading. According to Latvian legislation the Law enters into force after the promulgation of the State president.

However the adopted amendments envisage that non-citizens who live permanently in other countries and have received citizenship of this country or permanent residential permits should be deprived of non-citizen status of Latvia.

These amendments will grant the rights for persons to choose for the citizenship of any other state if they wish to do so. Until now the status of non-citizen created difficulties to get the citizenship of any other state.

The amendments will also create the same conditions for emigrants regardless of state they are going to live. The Law in the present reduction envisages that the person who is living in the CIS country cannot have the status of a non-citizen.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.