

OSCE HDIM 2016

Estonia

Right of Reply

Working Session 16 Specifically selected topic - Rights of the Child

29 September 2016

Thank you, Mister Moderator.

We would like to use this opportunity to briefly respond to the statement of Russian Federation.

Again the question of Russian language education in Estonia was raised, today another aspect was brought up, namely closing down the Russian language schools. We have already discussed in detail the aims of the education reform and transition to Estonian-language education in upper secondary school in Estonia which forms an integral part of the general education reform carried out in Estonia in the wider context of nation-wide administrative reform and demographic developments in the country.

Estonia is restructuring its school network in order to provide a better quality of education. When carrying out this process in some cases Estonian and Russian language schools are being merged and new national upper secondary schools established. Indeed, when carrying out the education reform 10 Russian language or bilingual Estonian-Russian language schools were closed down but we would once more like to stress that this was not directed against Russian language schools but was a part of the education reform as 54 Estonian language schools were closed at the same time period.

We would like to point out a recent agreement of Ministry of Education and Research and Narva City Government to establish a new Russian language national upper secondary school in mostly Russian speaking town of Narva, in North-Eastern part of Estonia.

Thank you, Mister Moderator.