

ESTONIA

Right of Reply HDIM 2018

WS 10 Fundamental freedoms I (continued), including freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, and association, national human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights, and freedom of movement.

Thank you, Moderator,

Estonia would like to exercise the right of reply and respond shortly to some misleading remarks presented in this panel.

In response to the statement of the Legal Information Centre for Human Rights Estonia would like to recall our statements from earlier meetings and remind LICHR that Estonia highly values the freedom of expression. However, we have to differentiate the rights and freedoms of expression and rules regulating the entrance into the country.

We would like to reiterate that all sovereign states are free to control and decide on the entry of foreigners. It is important to stress that this principle is in full accordance with principles of international law as well as with relevant OSCE commitments. Thus, it is possible to refuse entrance in these cases based on law and states are not obliged to substantiate or justify these decisions.

Regarding the so-called blacklist and inclusion of individuals to this list to whom entrance to the country is prohibited on security grounds, also, we would like to explain that everyone can check whether his or her name is in the list at the webpage of the Ministry of Interior.

As concerns the specific cases mentioned, the persons have had access to the decisions prohibiting them entry into the country, they had used their right to challenge these decisions before the court. The courts have reviewed the decisions and upheld them.

Thank you