



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ ATSTOVYBĖ  
PRIE TARPTAUTINIŲ ORGANIZACIJŲ VIENOJE**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania  
Ambassador Renatas Norkus  
at the 748th meeting of the Permanent Council  
in response to Russian statement regarding violation of human rights in EU  
countries**

**29 January 2009**

Madam Chairperson,

Lithuania was mentioned by the Russian Ambassador in the context of recent demonstrations of social-economic nature that have taken place in a number of European countries recently. Let me make a couple of general comments in this regard.

Indeed, the global financial crisis is affecting each and everyone. Such conditions require governments to take prudent and thoughtful measures aimed at both: addressing current difficulties of social-economic nature that people are facing as well as laying the ground for financial and economic stability in a long term perspective.

Madam Chairperson,

Since only this morning we got information about the content of the statement of the Russian Federation, and if I was right to hear a note of doubt in the intervention of Russian Ambassador as far as our commitments are concern, let me state the following.

Under no circumstances, such as the current financial and economic situation, Lithuania would distance itself from the rule of law and adherence to the fundamental freedoms and human rights. Our legislation fully and indiscriminately applies these fundamental principles, including freedom of association, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. Moreover, the independent judicial system in my country ensures free and fair trial to review cases on depriving of fundamental freedoms and human rights. Most importantly, necessary democratic institutions are in place, which along with non-governmental organizations, are well set to protect fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Having said this and fully aligning myself with the earlier made EU statement, let me thank the Russian Ambassador for raising his concerns.

We would want to hope that the Russian Federation will show genuine interest in engaging in constructive and open dialogue on our common commitments with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.