



*Eesti Vabariigi Alaline Esindus OSCE juures*  
*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE*

Statement by Ms. Dea Hannust, Deputy Head of Mission of Estonia to the OSCE in response to the Statement delivered by the Russian Federation.

Permanent Council No 903

1 March, 2012

Mr Chair,

Since my country was mentioned in a context of “falsification of historic facts” I’m taking this opportunity to remind those facts. As a result of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Estonia was forcibly occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. This was followed by Nazi occupation in 1941. For a brief period in September 1944, while the Nazi forces were in retreat and the Soviet forces had not yet reoccupied the country, attempts were made to restore Estonian independent government; however these were thwarted by the renewed occupation of Estonia by the Soviets that would last for nearly 50 more years. The occupation was never recognized by most Western countries.

The purpose of the actions of the Estonian authorities is not to give a moral standing to one or the other regime. The purpose is to pay tribute to those who, despite Nazi or Communist occupations, did not lose faith in the values of the independent Republic of Estonia and took actual steps in the name of its restoration.

Through different resolutions the Republic of Estonia has unequivocally condemned both Nazi and Communist crimes. Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including participation in the Holocaust and mass repressions deserve full condemnation and have nothing in common with resistance to totalitarian regimes.

## **14.02.2012 STATEMENT OF RIIGIKOGU PAYING TRIBUTE TO ESTONIAN CITIZENS**

**On the basis of the constitution of the Republic of Estonia and proceeding from the fact that the legal continuity of the Republic of Estonia that was occupied in World War II, was, according to international law, not interrupted, Riigikogu pays tribute to the citizens of the Republic of Estonia who, in the years of Soviet or Nazist German occupation, acted in the name of *de facto* restoration of the Republic of Estonia.**

**Riigikogu condemns the repressive politics of the Soviet Union and National Socialist Germany and the activities of persons who, in the service of these regimes, have committed crimes against humanity, irrespective of their citizenship and location of commitment of these crimes.**

### **EXPLANATORY LETTER**

The moral duty of Estonia as any democratic state that remembers its history, is to acknowledge the citizens who contributed to the foundation of our state and *de facto* restoration of its independent statehood. Paying tribute to those who offered resistance to the occupation regimes with words and deeds, the Estonian Parliament emphasizes: nobody who has stood for the Republic of Estonia is ignored or forgotten.

Through different resolutions, the Republic of Estonia has unequivocally condemned both Nazist and Communist crimes (*Resolution of EP 2557 (2009); Resolution 1482 of the PA of CoE (2006); Resolution 1096 of the PA of CoE (1996); Statement of Riigikogu on the Crimes of Occupation Regimes in Estonia, RT I 2002, 52, 326; Statement of the Government of Estonia on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II*). Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including participation in the Holocaust and mass repressions, deserve full condemnation and have nothing in common with resistance to totalitarian systems.

The purpose of the statement of Riigikogu is to pay tribute to those who, despite Nazist or Communist occupations, did not lose faith in the values of the independent Republic of Estonia and took actual steps in the name of its restoration. The purpose of this statement is not to recognize anybody by financial or other advantages.