



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

Statement by Ms Mariin Ratnik, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the OSCE in response to the Statement delivered by the Russian Federation.

Permanent Council No 955

6 June, 2013

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

I'd like to thank the Russian Delegation for bringing the Estonian education system to the attention to today's Permanent Council.

The protection of every culture and language has great importance for the Estonian Government, therefore the state support is guaranteed to the education in minorities' languages, provided that the necessary conditions (number of interested students, availability of qualified teachers etc) are fulfilled. The language of instruction is regulated only at the level of the upper secondary education where since 2011 the students are obliged to complete 60% of the compulsory curricula in Estonian.

Therefore, Russia's allegations, regarding the intended abolishment of Russian-language education in Estonia, are groundless.

As to the school in question, then the proposal to close the school was made after several months of investigation that revealed serious faults in management and inability to provide education according to quality standards set for such schools. The language of instruction has no relevance here. The students will have the possibility to continue their education in other private universities, also in Russian.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, I would like to remind that Estonia is one of the few countries in the world outside Russia who provides education at all levels also in Russian language.