



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF LITHUANIA
AT THE 924th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON 20 SEPTEMBER
2012 IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I thank the Distinguished Representative of the Russian Federation for his statement. My own Government shares the concern expressed therein with regard to the 23 August 2012 incident whereas the Memorial to the Victims of Holocaust in Vilkaviškis, Lithuania was desecrated with Nazi symbols and slogans.

The local police investigated the crime and was quick and efficient in identifying the perpetrator who turned out to be a local 14-year old boy. That disoriented teenager was too young to become subject of criminal prosecution. His parents were ordered by the court to pay the expenses of restoring the original appearance of the Memorial. His school was informed about the incident and took steps in order to enhance the teaching about the tragedy of the Holocaust and to encourage the students to respect the memory of the victims.

My Government remains firmly committed to further enhancing the education about Holocaust in Lithuania. Any acts insulting the memory of the victims will always be condemned, investigated and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

Tolerance through education was also among the priorities of Lithuania's OSCE Chairmanship last year. This included, among other things, resolute rejection of all forms of anti-Semitism and promulgated OSCE-wide measures to educate people about the immeasurable sufferings and irreparable losses that the terrible crimes of Holocaust inflicted upon so many of our countries in the last century.

Thank you.