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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1116th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 October 2016

**On the unveiling of a bust of a former member of the SS in Estonia**

Mr. Chairperson,

The installation of a bust of the Nazi criminal Nugiseks timed to coincide with his 95th birthday is by no means an isolated event glorifying Estonia's Nazi past.

For example, a gathering of veterans of the 20th Grenadier Division of the SS and their admirers is organized each year in Estonia at the end of July. They gather in the village of Sinimäe, where in 1944 the troops of the Third Reich battled against invading Soviet forces. At the top of the hill in Sinimäe a memorial was erected to the national units – Estonian, Belgian and Dutch – that fought on the side of the SS.

We would remind you that during the war around 80,000 Estonians fought on the side of Hitler's army and a further 3,000 volunteers participated in battles against the Soviet troops in the ranks of the Finnish army.

This year the SS veterans gathered on 30 July. The Government was by no means an idle observer. For example, the Estonian Minister of Social Affairs and chairman of the parliamentary party Pro Patria and Res Publica Union, Margus Tsahkna, welcomed the rally's participants.

In our view, meetings like these show disrespect for the graves of the several thousand Soviet soldiers, buried literally 300 metres from the memorial to the members of the SS, who gave their lives to liberate Estonia from Nazism. It is also an affront to the memory of the more than 30,000 Estonians who fought against the Nazis in the Estonian Rifle Corps of the Red Army.