



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO THE UN,
OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Latvia, Ambassador Janis Zlamets
on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

Permanent Council No.1214,
Vienna, 31 January 2019

Dear Chairman,

I would like to use this opportunity to say a couple of words in addition to the Statement of the European Union in my national capacity.

I would start by thanking distinguished reader today and state our agreement that the Holocaust is and remains topical issue for all of us.

Since the restoration of its independence, Latvia has worked extensively on the Holocaust research, education and commemoration. We are doing what needs to be done, but was not allowed during Soviet occupation:

The Commission of the Historians of Latvia has been established by the President of Latvia more than a decade ago. It has accomplished thorough and broad research on crimes against humanity committed during the Soviet and Nazi German occupations, including separate volumes on the Holocaust.

Study of the Holocaust forms part of the compulsory history curriculum in Latvia's schools, as well as study programmes in the history of culture, civics and politics. This topic is a part of graduation exams.

Commemoration and remembrance of the victims of Holocaust is essential element. Nearly 300 memorial places have been registered and most of them marked in Latvia. Marking of the remaining memorial sites will be completed in the coming few years.

Latvia successfully cooperates with the Jewish Community, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and other international organisations working in the field of Holocaust research, remembrance, and education.

Dear Chairman,

Latvia categorically denounces the Holocaust and mourns its victims.

We take those tragic issues really seriously and regret as inappropriate attempts by anyone to use them for rhetoric games.

Therefore and since I have a floor, allow me a short reply to our Russian colleagues.

Why don't you join the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and share with us the effort? Or your experts could read carefully and in full the research on *Anti-Semitism Worldwide* done by the respectful University of Tel Aviv. That could be a valuable contribution to building views in line with realities of current time.

Thank you, Mr.Chairman.