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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1459th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 February 2024

**On the ongoing grave violations of the rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking
population by the Baltic States**

Madam Chairperson,

I am not at all surprised by what we heard from our Baltic colleagues in response to our account of the outrages going on in those countries.

If truth be told, we were not addressing them. We have absolutely no illusions about the attitude of the authorities of those States.

The Soviet Union collapsed 33 years ago. The citizens of the three Baltic States, who are resentful of Soviet rule and harbour a grudge against Russia as they associate it with the USSR, have long since grown old and disaffected. In fact, a whole generation of citizens, if not two, have been brought up with Russophobia that has been artificially fomented and fuelled by the authorities. Hatred towards their neighbour has become the dominant State ideology of the Baltic countries. Behind which, by and large, there is nothing else. This raises serious doubts about the viability of those States.

Our statement was for the benefit of the participating States that retain a modicum of common sense in the Western world. And also for the OSCE executive structures that continue to turn a blind eye to the discrimination against Russians and Russian-speaking residents of the Baltic States. Dialogue with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is a waste of time.

Thank you for your attention.