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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
1563rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 May 2026

**Regarding the Russian Federation's alleged "continuous policy of
distortion of the historical truth and eradication of the memory of victims of
the Soviet totalitarian regime"**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Lithuania today raised for discussion the issue of the Russian Federation's alleged "continuous policy of distortion of the historical truth and eradication of the memory of victims of the Soviet totalitarian regime".

However, the very title of this agenda item is a vivid illustration of a politicized approach to history.

The problem with the Lithuanian framing of the issue is that when Lithuania uses the term "victims" it primarily means those who served in the German occupation administration during the Second World War, were members of the auxiliary police, and took part in punitive operations, round-ups, denunciations, the guarding of ghettos, massacres of the Jews and the post-war terror against the civilian population. After the war, some of these people joined the armed underground, which is romanticized in modern-day Lithuania as the "Forest Brothers".

This is how politically convenient statistics are produced. This artificial construct is then used against Russia as supposed evidence of the "eradication of memory".

We should like to emphasize that referring to these individuals exclusively as "victims of the Soviet regime" amounts to a deliberate erasure of their own crimes.

The selective nature of the memory of 1939 is also telling. Lithuania readily speaks of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, but does not like to recall that, on 22 March 1939, its own government signed a treaty with Nazi Germany on the transfer of the Klaipėda region. That was five months before the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact.

At the same time, Lithuania is waging a campaign against monuments to Soviet soldiers. Memorials to those who fought against Nazism are being dismantled. The memory of the liberators is being declared a

“legacy of the occupation”. Meanwhile, the memory of those with a collaborationist past is being cleansed, censored and incorporated into State policy.

This is the very definition of the eradication of memory and the instrumentalization of history. Not Russian, but Lithuanian.

A similar approach is being taken in other countries too. Latvia is attempting to portray the Waffen-SS legionnaires exclusively as “fighters against the USSR”. In Estonia, units that collaborated with the Reich are being glorified. In Poland, they prefer to speak only of August 1939, without mentioning the 1934 Hitler-Piłsudski Pact between Germany and Poland or their involvement in the partition of Czechoslovakia through the seizure of the Cieszyn region in 1938. In Western Europe, people are still reluctant to engage in a substantive discussion of the Munich betrayal, which paved the way for Hitler to carve up Czechoslovakia.

The general pattern is clear: their own compromises with Nazi Germany are hushed up, local collaboration is glossed over, accomplices are turned into “victims”, and all the blame is shifted on to the USSR and modern-day Russia.

Russia will consistently strive for a complete, rather than selective, historical memory. We will raise at the OSCE the issue of Baltic collaboration, organize events, publish documents and name specific organizations, individuals, sites of mass killings and crimes.

The memory of the innocent lives lost must not be used as a tool for whitewashing their executioners. Historical truth must be complete, and not edited to suit current political agendas.

Thank you for your attention.