

01 October 2015

Dr. Valery Engel,
President of the European Center for Democracy Development

Madam High Commissioner, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to ask the Representative of the United States. The fact that our organization is actively involved in monitoring of the violations of minority rights. We are extremely concerned about this. We never met mention of any violation of the rights of Jews in Crimea. As a member of the European Jewish Parliament, I was contacted today by messenger with the head of the Department of Public Relations of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia Baruch Gorin, but he also has no information on this subject. I ask you, Mr. Representative of the United States delegation to clarify your statement about the violation of the rights of Jews in the Crimea.

I also appeal to the Ukrainian Representative to comment on his statement about the alleged demonstration of Nazi symbols on the right-wing actions in November 2014 in Moscow and other Russian cities. We conduct it thorough monitoring of such demonstrations and have not found anything like this. Moreover, in 2014 in Russia there is criminal liability for the display of Nazi symbols.

I would also like to remind you that today, according to the speech of the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, the fighters of the Organization of the Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) declared like heroes in this country. These are the people who have been during the World War II, participated in the massacre of Jews at Babi Yar and participated in the Volyn massacre that killed Polish citizens. So for us, it looks a bit strange that Ukraine declares that it has no problems with the Nazi ideology and national minorities, respectively.

Now to the point of my speech. Our organization conducted a study that we will present today at the side event, which concerns the situation with xenophobia and aggressive rationalism in Europe in 2014-15. So, according to these data, for example, in France, 25% of immigrants from developing countries (and this is not necessarily the first-generation immigrants) do not feel the self like French. And, characteristically, did not want to feel it. This applies to both Muslims and Christians. Approximately the same numbers have other Western European countries. Ie these people do not oppose the citizenship of European countries, but they do not identify themselves as French, Germans or Italians. Moreover, some of them are trying to impose on the new society their old civilization model.

25% of opponents of integration already is a crisis of the European model of integration. This means, in particular, the growth of extremism, both on the part of immigrants from developing countries and from the right-wing forces that will exploit this situation for their own political purposes.

We believe that in spite of the declaration of inadmissibility of assimilation de facto European integration model - a model of assimilation. Please, pay your attention to the reservations made by the leading European countries to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Austria and many other countries have restricted the list of its national minorities by narrow range of its traditional minorities who have little quantity. But so-called "new minorities" who emerged in recent decades as a result of strong immigration flows, are not taken into account, they are not considered like national minorities, and they are not subject to the requirements of the Framework Convention.

More worser is the situation in France and in Greece (except for the area of Western

Thrace), who do not recognize the existence of national minorities at all!

Now I have the question: how to deal with the issues of what doesn't exist?

As a result, a vacuum is created which is used including the extremist movements, and European governments can only rely on the efficiency of the security services. But no special service is not able to solve the problem of international relations, it is a political question.

Recommendations to countries of OSCE: to withdraw its reservations to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and to revise the model of integration of ethnic minorities towards the rejection of the principle of assimilation.