



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

**Statement by Ambassador Nils Jansons, Permanent  
Representative of the Republic of Latvia, delivered in  
response to the statement by the Russian Federation**

Permanent Council No 810,  
Vienna, May 20, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Indeed, on 17<sup>th</sup> of May the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case “*Kononov v. Latvia*”, in which it recognized that by convicting Vasiliy Kononov for the war crime committed in 1944, Latvia has not violated the prohibition of retroactive application of criminal law enshrined in Article 7 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

I think, what we heard earlier in this meeting was a political assessment of the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights. Latvia, on its part, believes that this is a legal issue, which has been subject of thorough and exhaustive legal deliberations at the European Court of Human Rights. We see no reason to second-guess from political perspective the Court’s judgment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.