



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ ATSTOVYBĖ
PRIE TARPTAUTINIŲ ORGANIZACIJŲ VIENOJE**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

1320th OSCE Permanent Council meeting

Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Lithuania on the Current Issue

“80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War”

Mr Chair,

Lithuania aligns itself fully with the statement of the European Union, but I would like to add a few comments in my national capacity.

We do not think that it was appropriate to include, on the list of current issues, an item that is not current, but of historical relevance.

We also note the complete disrespect involved in raising this issue when a number of participating States, including my own, are honouring the victims of the first wave of mass deportations ordered by the Soviet authorities after they forcibly occupied the Baltic states.

Just this Monday, we marked the 80th anniversary of the start of the large-scale and systematic repression and deportation of civilians to Siberian gulags, majority of them women and children.

Having said that, we remember and pay highest respect to the millions of victims of the WWII and totalitarian regimes. Defeat of Nazism is a merit of Allied determination and sacrifice. Regretfully, although the WWII ended in 1945, the terror in Central Eastern Europe continued, claiming millions more victims.

History is important as we need to learn from the past. We must remain vigilant and ensure such terrible events never happen again.

This is why it is crucial to stick to an objective historical narrative. History must be understood and accepted for what it is and not be revised retrospectively only to manipulate and alter current political realities, or to whitewash past crimes.

Mr Chair I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.
I thank you