

PC.DEL/1215/14
21 October 2014

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1019th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 October 2014

**On the refusal to allow the Russian academician
Valery Tishkov to enter Estonia**

Mr. Chairperson,

The decision by the Estonian authorities to deny entry into the country to the eminent Russian scholar Valery Tishkov arouses our indignation. Mr. Tishkov is the Director of the Miklukho-Maklai Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology and a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who arrived at Tallinn airport on 12 October to participate in a session of the Impressum International Media Club.

As it emerges, the decision not to allow this Russian citizen into the country was taken three days before his arrival. However, the Estonian authorities did not consider it necessary to inform either him or the offices of the organization inviting him of this decision. A scholar with a worldwide reputation, the author of more than 200 monographs on ethnographic subjects, was detained at passport control at the airport and subjected to a humiliating deportation procedure.

As far as we are aware, Mr. Tishkov did not appear on any so-called European Union "sanctions list". Nor had he permitted himself any offensive or unfriendly utterances in relation to Estonia.

His only offence seems to have been to hold certain opinions on the problems of national minorities differing from those of the Estonian authorities. Unfortunately, unwillingness to accept other points of view, manifested in such uncivilized forms, is a distinguishing trait of the current policies of Estonia, a country which claims to uphold the principles of democracy and freedom of expression.

We regard the actions of Estonia as aimed at creating artificial obstacles to an open and unbiased exchange of views between representatives of the civic and scientific communities in our two countries. Such actions by Tallinn will naturally not go unanswered and will be taken into account by us in the context of our bilateral relations.

Regrettably, this is far from being the first case of a Russian citizen facing discriminatory treatment at the hands of certain European Union countries. At a recent meeting, we already mentioned the denial of entry into Latvia to Igor Panevkin, the head of a non-governmental organization concerned with defending human rights. In mid-September, the Deputy Director of the CIS Institute, Vladimir Zharikhin, was not allowed into Estonia. In Lithuania, the eminent Russian political scientist and historian Alexander Dyukov has been declared persona non grata. The cosmonaut Sergey Krikalev was refused a visa to participate in the International Astronautical Congress in Toronto. And in July, 12 members of the Russian delegation due to participate in the Farnborough Airshow were refused British visas.

We wish to call on our partners to honour their OSCE commitments on guaranteeing freedom of expression and freedom of movement.