Committee on Security and Defence (New cp: Alisher Akhmadjonov)

Honorable delegates,

My name is Janus Edvards Matrozis, I will be your committee president in the MEP BSR Riga session 2017. After finishing the Advanced Level Cambridge International Examinations, I have volunteered to enlist in Latvian Armed Forces and further continuing to NATO. The Committee of Security and Defense is a truly intriguing one, the first committee I attended in MEP. Instead of focusing on foreign lands and Islamic State, we must attempt to solve a local and more urgent issue, tensions between Russia and NATO, from which,

majority of the countries are inside the European Union. It is no secret that especially the Baltics, where I

am from, are paranoid about the threat of invasion as was the scenario with annexation of Crimea. What

makes this issue even more complicated is the demographics of eastern EU and the Baltics, according to

census of 2011, there were 1,052,520 ethnic Russians in the Baltic States (556,422 in Latvia, 321,198 in

Estonia, 174,900 in Lithuania), keep in mind, that this amount is ethnic Russians, not accounting their

descendants, who will be raised with Russian language, values, religious beliefs etc. as well as in

comparison to average population of Baltics, making up close to 35-40% of entire population. Having a

large population of unintegrated individuals, that are legal citizens of EU, however support the Kremlin,

will make this task more difficult since too much pressure on these individuals (Russian minorities), is

prone to cause problems and opposition within the country, in addition to outer.

I would like you to keep in mind, this must be an issue solved from within, and diplomatically,

since too much interference or aggression from either side can cause these minorities to become

“protected” and “liberated”. Please read the following articles posted as well as keep yourself updated

with the news, it only takes a few minutes per day to read, and it will help greatly in the creation of

resolutions. If you wish, read the comments under news articles as they can help formulate general

public's opinions. The last article is about integration of minorities, that acts as a universal idea, with

ethnic Russians in eastern Europe or Middle east immigration in UK. This is not an impossible task, but it

surely is not easy, best of luck in preparation for the session!

Regards,

Janus Edvards Matrozis (Due to workload Janus has asked to be replaced – Alisher will take over)

Committee president

Links:

<http://www.bdforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017_PoliticalRep_LAPAS-web.pdf> (pages 15-23)

<https://www.baltictimes.com/news_outlook/>

<https://www.baltictimes.com/discussing_the_eu_and_russia___s____soft_power____in_the_baltic_states_and_the_eastern_neighbourhood/>