

Joint Statement of the Ministers of Justice of Latvia and Lithuania  
*Truth and Justice for Victims of Occupation and Aggression*

9 May 2025

We, the Ministers of Justice of the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania,

- recalling the tragic legacy of the Second World War and our enduring commitment to international law, justice, and human dignity;
- celebrating Europe Day and the 75th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, which anchors a united and peaceful Europe;
- deploring the Russian Federation's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine;
- affirming the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Baltic states unlawfully subjected to occupation in the aftermath of the Second World War,
- recognizing that truth, remembrance, and accountability are indispensable to lasting peace in Europe,
- stressing that falsification of history as well as disinformation and information manipulation campaigns have been the driving force for the Russian regime to promote its unjust demands,

issue the following statement:

On 9 May – the day the Russian Federation stages its propaganda celebration of “The Great Victory” – we remind the international community that the outcome of that war was profoundly unjust for the Baltic States and that its imposed reality still casts a long shadow. The defeat of Nazism in Europe did not restore Baltic independence. Instead, the Soviet Union, exploiting its self-appointed status as a victorious power, retained all the territory of the three Baltic States it had seized — based on the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact – while allied with Nazi Germany in the early years of the war.

To this day, no comprehensive international legal assessment of that occupation and its consequences has been undertaken. It remains imperative to identify and quantify the full scope of the losses inflicted by the Soviet occupation regime. This is a moral duty to all who suffered under foreign rule. The occupation of the Baltic States stands as a stark reminder of the devastating long-term consequences that arise when territories fall under the control of an imperialist aggressor state.

We therefore reaffirm our joint commitment to identify, record, and quantify the damage inflicted during the occupation. At the same time, we will remain steadfast in supporting Ukraine as it investigates and documents the international crimes currently being perpetrated by the Russian Federation, with a view to full accountability under international law.

Pursuing truth and justice honours those whose voices were silenced, safeguards the sovereignty and dignity of our nations, and upholds the rules-based international order. Impunity for aggression corrodes that order and risks encouraging further violations.

**Dr. Inese Lībiņa-Egnere**  
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia



**Mr. Rimantas Mockus**  
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