



## **PRESS RELEASE ELR 10/17/2025 TOOMAS HENDRIK LIVES DISRESPECTS DEMOCRACY**

*The former prime minister of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Lives, stated ([Direct YouTube Link](#)) in the program *At the Frontline of Russia's Shadow War in De Balie* that the 2016 Ukraine referendum was an operation by the Russian secret service. **Toomas Hendrik Lives said this** in the same Balie where, in 2016, there was a [great debate](#) ([Link Balie](#)) about the association agreement with Ukraine.*

*The foundation is dismayed by the fact that Toomas Hendrik Lives is [questioning the validity of the election results](#) with his lie that the Ukraine referendum was a Russian operation. The report [Treason to Law](#), which formed the basis of our [stemtegen.eu](#) campaign in 2016, is still relevant today. Even former Prime Minister Rutte—now Secretary General of NATO—has never questioned the [democratic legitimacy](#) of the referendum's election results; by stipulating an [appendix](#) ([mirror](#)) to the treaty, he explicitly confirmed the legitimate nature of the Dutch people's will.*

*It is an affront to Dutch democracy to deny the inner democratic will of the Dutch people (61% against) with the lie that the referendum was an operation organized by the Russian secret service. It is also a slap in the face to the [Advisory Council on International Affairs](#), which recognized the democratic will of the people in its advice.*

*The foundation is also deeply shocked by the discriminatory statements made by Toomas Hendrik Lives to make civil rights in the EU dependent on a person's ethnicity. Such statements are incompatible with the principles of non-discrimination and the democratic rule of law.*

**European Language Rights Foundation Amsterdam 17-10-2025**



### ***Discriminatory behaviour by Toomas Hendrik Lives***

*The foundation is deeply shocked by the statement made by Toomas Hendrik Lives in response to a question from the chairman of the European Language Rights Foundation on 15-10 regarding the language rights of Russians in Estonia. Toomas Hendrik Lives claims that Russians are oppressors and have no language or civil rights. Toomas Hendrik Lives stated that Germans in the Netherlands should not be given voting rights. The foundation is deeply shocked by this discriminatory behaviour and by the denial of European civil rights on the basis of ethnicity.*

#### *Transcript of conversation*

*(22:54.5) **GL ELR:** Goodevening Mr president, do you have a second ? **Toomas Hendrik Lives** Not much.*

***GL ELR** I will be very short my name is Landman and I would like to ask you about the discrimination of Russians in Estonia, I think they should have the same linguistic rights as Swedes in Finland. **Toomas***

***Hendrik Lives** The Russians are all occupants. They came there after world war I and that is the position of the EU and that is my position and that's the way it is. There is no comparison between an occupying force and "nordic?" that have been in Finland since eleven hundred and occupant of the Soviet occupation and that's a whole different thing. **You don't give Germans the right to vote in the Netherlands or Norway. Mr Toomas Hendrik Lives then walks away and refuses a dialogue a second respectful attempt to speak with him is refused by telling the chairman of ELR that he does not speak with SVR. SVR is the acronym of the [Russian Secret service](#).***