

When? Wednesday, October 2,
13:30-14:30 CET

Location: Plenary, Sofitel
Victoria Warsaw, Królewska St.
11, 00-065, Warsaw

Speakers

Welcome:

- **Raimonds Oskalns**
Ambassador of Latvia

Panelists:

- **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya**
Leader of the Belarusian
democratic forces, Head of the
Unified Transitional Cabinet

- **Volha Zazulinskaya**
Strana Foundation

- **Wolfgang Benedek**
Professor, University of Graz

Closing Remarks:

- **Fatène Benhabylès-Foeth**
Ambassador of France

Political Prisoners in Belarus: Working Together to Advocate their Release

On July 11th, 38 OSCE participating States invoked the Vienna Mechanism and conveyed a letter to Belarus posing eleven questions regarding the conditions of detention of prisoners, and reprisals against their family members. Belarus has failed to respond in any meaningful way to these questions.

With a view to facilitating a discussion on the current situation of political prisoners in Belarus and recommendations to OSCE participating States and institutions, the Group of Friends of Democratic Belarus is organising a side event to bring together representatives from OSCE delegations, OSCE structures, civil society organisations and experts.

Questions to be addressed include:

- What are the persistent challenges and emerging issues faced by Belarusian political prisoners and their families since 2020?
- How can the OSCE – with its comprehensive definition of security, including human rights and democracy – best hold Belarus to account for its implementation of human dimension commitments, including with respect to political prisoners?

Refreshments will be provided

Organized by:

Group of Friends of Democratic Belarus: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States.