



Office for a  
Democratic Belarus  
Brussels



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung

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**Venue:** 1 Place du Congres, 1000 Brussels

### **Belarus after the Election: Revolution, Reform, or Stagnation?**

Belarus looks as interesting as ever before the upcoming presidential election. Russia is actively pursuing what appears to be a regime change policy for many Belarus watchers. Moscow declares it is not willing to bargain its principles. The EU has renewed the visa sanctions against some Belarusian government officials but also suspended them again. Moreover, Brussels has drafted a joined action plan with Belarus despite the lack of a legal framework for bilateral cooperation. Brussels says it is not willing to bargain its values. Are the two mighty neighbours neutralizing each other giving yet another chance to Aliaksandr Lukashenka?

Meanwhile Minsk is preparing for the usual election scenario although in a more liberal atmosphere. Though there are some signs of reforms in the economic and finance sectors, especially targeting improvement of business climate, “adoption” of some part of the political opponents and civil society, no political reform is to be noticed.

How determined is Russia towards Belarus and especially towards Aliaksandr Lukashenka? For how long would Belarus’ leader be able to handle pressure from both Russia and the European Union? Could Belarus serve as a model for other CIS countries on how to face political and economic conditionalities coming from the EU and Russia.



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## **Programme**

### **14.00. Opening remarks**

Michael Emerson, CEPS

### **14.15. - 15.30. Political and Economic Developments before the Election**

*Vitali Silitski*, Academic Director of the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (BISS)  
(Vilnius, Lithuania)

*Aleh Hulak*, Head of Belarusian Helsinki Committee (Belarus)

*Alexei Pikulik*, BISS (Belarus)

*Andrei Yahorau*, Centre for European Transformation (Belarus)

Moderator: Olaf Wientzek, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, KAS

### **15.30.-15.45. Coffee break**

### **15.45. - 16.15. External Factors and Energy Security**

*Pirkka Tapiola*, EU Council

*Balazs Jarabik*, Associate Fellow, FRIDE

Moderator: Michael Emerson

### **16.15. - 17.00. Conclusions**

Led by Michael Emerson