



“THE FUTURE OF BELARUS”

Summary of the event held on January 10, 2025, by the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies

At the “Future of Belarus” conference, the Community of Democracies (CoD) Secretary General dr. Mantas Adomėnas and Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya urged for robust international response to the upcoming Lukashenko’s self-legitimation farce. In the lead-up to the upcoming Lukashenko’s self-legitimation attempt in Belarus, the Community of Democracies welcomed Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Deputy Chairman of the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus Pavel Latushko, other Belarusian pro-democracy activists, diplomats, and state representatives to discuss the diplomatic response to the so-called elections. The event aimed to catalyse the exchange of knowledge and expertise to step up diplomatic support for the fight on behalf of democracy in Belarus.

Opening remarks were provided by the Secretary General Mantas Adomėnas, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, and Jakub Wiśniewski, Undersecretary of State and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.



“Supporting Belarus is not a charity. It is an investment in democracy and freedom worldwide”- Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

“The upcoming self-legitimation farce by the Lukashenko regime is an utter disregard for the rule-of-law and the will of the Belarusian people. It’s a show of political cynicism that cannot be dignified by the name ‘election’, even by denying it is one”- SG Adomėnas

“I believe that in 20 years from now, Lukashenko will be as distant memory for Belarus as our communist leaders are for Poland”- Undersecretary of State Jakub Wiśniewski

The **Memorandum of Understanding** signed between the Community of Democracies, represented by dr. Mantas Adomėnas, and the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus, led by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya confirms the Community's unwavering support for the democratic forces in Belarus and opens a new page in the Community's activities globally advocating for democratic leaders who were elected by their people but deprived of their rightful office by authoritarian regimes.



The panel discussion: “Democratic opposition in Belarus and in exile- how diplomats may help?” provided insightful remarks on the role of diplomacy in enhancing international support for the Belarusian democratic forces within and outside of Belarus. *Panelists:* Michał Kamiński, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland; Adam Hałaciński, Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for co-operation with Belarusian democratic forces; Pavel Latushka, Deputy Chairman of the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus, Karina Węgrzynowska, Head of Office Council of Europe Office in Warsaw, and Hanna Liubakova, journalist from Belarus, non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council.



"The fact that I am standing before you today is the result of incredible solidarity. My freedom was fought for by civil society, the media, artists, lawyers, diplomats, and politicians"- closing remarks were provided by **Andrey Gnyot**, Belarusian activist and filmmaker, whose recent release followed significant international pressure, including joint diplomatic action by the Community of Democracies Member States, and serves as one of many examples of the growing dangers posed by transnational repressions and unjustified imprisonment of opposition activists and journalists.

