



DEN NORSKE HELSINGFORSKOMITÉ
NORWEGIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE

Invitation

Seminar 18.05.2009

The Belarus Road Map to Europe = the Road to Democracy?

Time: 13 00 – 16 00

Place: **Litteraturhuset**, Amalie Skram - salen

Belarus is on the threshold to changes. After 15 years of isolation, the invitation of Belarus from the European Union to join the Eastern Partnership could bring Belarus into a process of much needed reforms. Alexander Lukashenko was personally invited to participate in the official opening of the Eastern Partnership program in Prague on May 6 and 7. At the same time, there are still no evident signs on the ground in Belarus indicating Lukashenkos willingness to ease his authoritarian fist.

At the seminar we will ask prominent members of the Belarusian opposition parties and other parts of the civil society about what they think about the European invitation of President Lukashenko, and in which direction is Belarus moving.

Program

- 13.00 *Introduction*, **Bjørn Engesland**, Secretary General, The Norwegian Helsinki Committee
- 13.10 *“The dialogue between Europe and the official Minsk – pros and contras*
Anatoly Lebedko : Co-chairman of the United Democratic Forces, leader of the United Civil Party
- 13.40 *“Alternatives for Lukashenko”*, **Alexander Kozulin**, the former candidate for presidency and former political prisoner
- 14.10 Coffee Break
- 14.25 *“Europe needs European Belarus”*, **Andrei Sannikov**, coordinator of Charter '97
- 14.55 *“The current Human Rights situation in Belarus”*, **Ales Bialiatski**, Head of the Human Rights Centre 'Viasna'
- 15.15 *“Mass Media and the political activity of the youth”*, **Volga Kuzmich**, leader of Youth Branch of the Belarusian Association for Journalists
- 15.35 Questions, Discussion and Conclusions:
- 16.00 End

Moderator: **Berit Lindeman**, Head of Information, The Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Welcome!