



**HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE
NETWORK**

JOINING FORCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**International human rights conference with a focus on Belarus
and the Baltic States**

24 SEPTEMBER 2010

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva
Konstitucijos pr. 20, Vilnius

Sponsored by:



PROGRAMME

08:30 **REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

09:00 **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

- Welcome by **Tatiana Reviaka**, President of the Belarusian Human Rights House
- Opening by **Maria Dahle**, Executive Director of the Human Rights House Foundation
- **Heidi Hautala**, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament (TBC)
- **Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė**, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Steinar Gil**, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Lithuania

09:30 **Session 1: PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

Moderator: Florian Irminger, Head of Geneva Office, Human Rights House Foundation

- *Special procedures: Mechanisms to protect human rights defenders -* **Lidiya Grigoreva**, NGO Liaison Officer of the Civil Society Section, **Jakhongir Azizkhodjaev**, Human Rights Officer of the Europe and Central Asia Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- *Concrete mechanisms to protect human rights defenders* **Adviser of Thomas Hammarberg**, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights
- *EU guidelines on Human Right Defenders and their implementation –* **Heidi Hautala**, the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament (TBC)
- *National guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders –* **Idun Tvedt**, Advisor of the Section for Human Rights and Democracy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Maria Chichtchenkova**, Protection Coordinator, Front Line

10:40 **Questions and comments from the participants**

11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

- 11:30 **Session 2: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BELARUS AND THE BALTIC STATES**
Moderator: Benjamin Moreau, Human Rights Adviser, OSCE Office for Democracy and Human Rights
- **Ales Bialiatski**, Head of Human Rights Centre Viasna, Belarus
 - **Henrikas Mickevičius**, Head of Human Rights Monitoring Institute, Lithuania
 - **Anhelita Kamenska**, Researcher of Latvian Centre for Human Rights
 - Estonian Institute for Human Rights, Estonia (TBC)
- 12:30 **Questions and comments from the participants**
- 13:00 **LUNCH**
- 14:30 **Session 3: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN BELARUS AND THE BALTIC STATES**
Moderator: Joanna Kurosz, Programme Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Civil Rights Defenders, Sweden
- *Current media situation in Belarus, including media related legislation and its implementation - Andrei Bastunets*, Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, Belarus
 - **Nathalie Losekoot**, Senior Programme Officer, Europe, Article 19, Open Word House, UK
 - **Auksė Balčytienė**, Media and Communications Professor at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
- 15:00 **Questions and comments from the participants**
- 15:30 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 16:00 **Session 4: HOW DO WE RAISE AWARENESS?**
Moderator: Rohan A. Jayasekera, Associate Editor, Index on Censorship, UK
- *Innovative ways to reach out to the people about human rights issues, Yury Chavusau*, Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs, Campaign STOP 193.1, Belarus
 - **Valiantsin Stefanovic**, “Abolish Death Penalty”, Belarus
 - **Indira Ganesh**, Project Manager, Tactical Technology Collective
- 16:30 **Questions and comments from the participants**
- 17:00 **CLOSING REMARKS**
- **Jan Erik Helgesen**, First Vice-President of the Venice Commission, Professor at Oslo University