

Mrs Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya  
National leader of Belarus

Vilnius, 27 August 2020

Dear Mrs Tsikhanouskaya,

Dear Svetlana,

In recent months, we have been witnessing significant events taking place in Belarus, your home country and our neighbour. They will undoubtedly play an important role in the history of building a free and democratic Europe. What we see today is the end of a dictator, because what every dictator has feared throughout history, i.e. the unity of the people and the common desire to ensure their freedom, has come about. We see the emergence of the Belarusian civil society, which is no longer afraid of the aggressive and criminal regime of Lukashenko. We see people, who defend their freedom and want justice and an opportunity to make their own decision on the future of their country. You are the symbol and the voice of this freedom fight that spreads the message about the aspirations of the people of Belarus to the whole world.

We are closely following both the events in Belarus and your speeches given to European and world leaders calling on them to support the people of Belarus, who are striving for democratic change, free, fair and just elections, and for the life chances, we enjoy as part of the European Union family of nations. Lithuanians, like no one else, can understand the people of Belarus because we still recall our own way out of the Soviet prison more than thirty years ago. Not only was it embedded in our memories, but also gave us the experience that we can and want to share.

One of the most effective instruments that helped us spread the message about Lithuania's pursuit of freedom in the Western world were the so-called information centers - the representations of independent Lithuania operating in the United States and European countries. Such an instrument can also be used by the National Coordinating Council, initiated and convened by you, which can and should become an institution representing the real interests of the people of Belarus and speak on behalf of the future new government elected in a democratic way. We see that the Lukashenko regime seeks to disrupt the work of this Council in every way possible, and it is therefore necessary to ensure its safe and free functioning, spread information about the situation in Belarus and the crimes committed by the regime, and mobilise Western support for the Belarusian people and for the promotion of the universally recognised human rights and freedoms in Belarus.

One way of doing this would be to set up a network of Belarusian people's representations in the countries of the European Union, as well as beyond the Atlantic. Belarusian diplomats who would choose to represent the people of Belarus rather than the bloodstained regime could join such established representations as well. Such representations could become a place for spreading a clear message about the aspirations of the Belarusian people for freedom and justice, mobilising the support of the diaspora, and developing a dialogue with the Western democratic community for the common goal of a free and independent Belarus. Lithuania, which has become a haven for many people persecuted by the Lukashenko regime in recent decades, would undoubtedly be the first country in the European Union and NATO to support the establishment of such a representation in the capital city of Vilnius.

I would sincerely suggest that you consider this idea. We are ready to provide the necessary political, legal and other support for its implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Gabrielius Landsbergis  
Leader of the Seimas Opposition  
Chairman of the Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats