

Brussels, 01 July 2014 140701/03

P R E S S R E L E A S E

EU Special Representative for Human Rights Lambrinidis

meets Belarusian human rights defender Ales Bialiatski

The European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis, met today in Brussels with Ales Bialiatski, President of the Belarusian human rights organisation Viasna and Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). Mr Bialitski's visit to Brussels comes only ten days after his release following almost three years of imprisonment on politically motivated grounds in Belarus.

Mr Bialiatski expressed his gratitude for the support extended to him and called for continued solidarity with Belarusian civil society. Special Representative Lambrinidis underlined the EU's commitment to continuing its support for the release of the remaining political prisoners in Belarus and the reinstatement of their full civil and political rights. This could contribute to improving relations between the European Union and Belarus.

More information

Statement by the Spokesperson of the High Representative on the release of Ales Bialiatski: <u>http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140621_01_en.pdf</u>

EU-Belarus relations: <u>http://www.eeas.europa.eu/belarus/index_en.htm</u> The EU and human rights: <u>http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/index_en.htm</u>

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