



Беларуская нацыянальная платформа
Форум грамадзянскай супольнасці
УСХОДНЯГА ПАРТНЁРСТВА

POSITION

of the Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum **on the Sociopolitical Situation in Belarus in the aftermath of the Presidential Election**

Based on the assessment of the presidential election by the members of the Belarusian National Platform, namely, the reports by the Belarusian human rights organizations in the framework of the campaign "Human Rights Defenders for Free Elections" and monitoring the presentation of the 2015 Presidential Election in the Belarusian media by the Belarusian Association of Journalists, we state that:

- the 2015 Presidential Election 2015 cannot be considered free, open and equal;
- the election results cannot be considered a reflection of the will of the voters;

This assessment is based on the following facts noted by the representatives of civil society organizations:

- The election process did not meet key international standards for democratic and free elections;
- During the election there was no equal access to the media for all candidates;
- The activities of election commissions during the election cannot be considered unbiased;
- During the election administrative resources were widely used in favour of the incumbent president;
- Numerous cases of coercion of voters to participate in early voting have been reported during the election;
- The vote count lacked transparency and was closed for observers.

We also have to admit that the opposition political forces did not use the existing political opportunity to build a constructive dialogue both among themselves and with the civil society for developing a consolidated strategy for action in the election campaign. This behavior long before the start of the campaign made politically meaningless any participation in it. In fact, all the actions of the Belarusian opposition forces, both of those that took part in the election in various forms, and those that exited the process shortly before the start of the election campaign, benefited the acting regime.

The infighting and conflicts between opposition forces regarding participation or boycotting (on the eve and during the campaign), as well as their actions during the election only led to an artificial interest towards the process. The electoral process as such in the absence of the real control over its



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quality and compliance with the recognized international norms was inherently illegitimate and essentially manipulative.

Thus, the overall result – non-transparent and undemocratic election – is primarily the responsibility of the Belarusian authorities, but, to some extent, all the key personalities of the Belarusian political opposition are also responsible for it.

The members of the Belarusian National Platform call for the dialogue between all the stakeholders on the current state of the political situation in the country, as well as on the joint actions aimed at changing it. Without such a dialogue, we see no opportunity for meaningful action and avoiding the imitation of democratic process in the political arena.

Adopted by the Conference of the Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on 28-29 November 2015. Belarusian National Platform unites over 70 civil society organizations of Belarus.