



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Štefan FÜLE

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 28/10/2011
A(2011)

Dear Professor Manaev,

Thank you for your email and attached statement, sent to Commissioner Füle on 6 October.

We were informed immediately through our channels of your arrest on your way to the quarterly briefing. Your statement brings a vivid account of this event, and illustrates well the climate of repression that currently reigns in Belarus.

The EU is seriously concerned about the situation in Belarus. We have been very vocal about our concerns placing restrictive measures on those responsible for the crackdown, and suspending many aspects of our bilateral relations. At the same time, the EU is committed to reaching out to the Belarusian population at large through increased assistance to civil society and victims of repression, and by offering to negotiate visa facilitation and readmission agreements to the benefit of the common citizen.

Let me take the opportunity on behalf of Commissioner Füle to thank you for the important work done by the IISEPS, which provides us with crucial information about trends and opinions in Belarus, and for your courage and commitment in continuing with your important profession and civic mission.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Mordue

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