

# Belarus 2015 Chronicle of Konrad Adenauer Foundation

A selection of the most important political developments in Belarus 2015

Date	Event
<b>01.01.2015</b>	Belarus joined the chairmanship of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, Eurasian Intergovernmental Board and the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission. <a href="http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/nae/news/Pages/01-01-2015-1.aspx">ru <u>http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/nae/news/Pages/01-01-2015-1.aspx</u></a> <a href="http://naviny.by/rubrics/economic/2015/01/01/ic_news_113_451628/">ru <u>http://naviny.by/rubrics/economic/2015/01/01/ic_news_113_451628/</u></a> <a href="http://sputniknews.com/politics/20141010/193931058/Eurasian-Economic-Community-Leaders-Sign-Group-Abolition.html">en <u>http://sputniknews.com/politics/20141010/193931058/Eurasian-Economic-Community-Leaders-Sign-Group-Abolition.html</u></a>
<b>13.01.2015</b>	Alexander Lukashenko addressed a message to the EAEC. He was stating that the organization must prevent exemptions and restrictions in the movement of goods within the Union. <a href="http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/nae/news/Pages/21-01-2015.aspx">en <u>http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/nae/news/Pages/21-01-2015.aspx</u></a> <a href="http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/obraschenie-k-glavam-gosudarstv-chlenov-evrazijskogo-ekonomicheskogo-sojuza-10649/">ru <u>http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/obraschenie-k-glavam-gosudarstv-chlenov-evrazijskogo-ekonomicheskogo-sojuza-10649/</u></a>
<b>14.01.2015</b>	It was announced that the EU will provide € 8 million for projects under the program "Civil society organizations and local authorities" until 2017 in Belarus. <a href="http://odb-office.eu/capacity-building_trainings/eu-will-grant-8-million-euros-belarus-part-civil-society-and-local-government-support-programme">en <u>http://odb-office.eu/capacity-building_trainings/eu-will-grant-8-million-euros-belarus-part-civil-society-and-local-government-support-programme</u></a> <a href="http://by.odb-office.eu/razvicio-patencyjalu-arhanizacyj_treninhi-i-infadni/es-vydelit-belarusi-8-ml-evro-v-ramkah-programmy-organizacii-grazhdanskogo-obshchestva-i-mestnye">ru <u>http://by.odb-office.eu/razvicio-patencyjalu-arhanizacyj_treninhi-i-infadni/es-vydelit-belarusi-8-ml-evro-v-ramkah-programmy-organizacii-grazhdanskogo-obshchestva-i-mestnye</u></a>
<b>01.02.2015</b>	The entry into force of the new edition of the "On Martial Law" in Belarus, which equated aggression against CSTO member states to the attack on Belarus. <a href="http://www.belaruspartisan.org/politic/293764/">ru <u>http://www.belaruspartisan.org/politic/293764/</u></a> <a href="http://news.tut.by/politics/432447.html">ru <u>http://news.tut.by/politics/432447.html</u></a> <a href="http://info-news.eu/belarus-adopts-new-legislation-concerning-the-green-men/">en <u>http://info-news.eu/belarus-adopts-new-legislation-concerning-the-green-men/</u></a>

- 04.02.2015** Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Lithuania took place in Minsk. Deputy Foreign Minister of Lithuania Andrius Krivas stated that the EU would withdraw sanctions imposed on Belarus if a "significant progress in the protection of human rights" would be achieved and all the political prisoners would be released.  
 en <http://urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-vice-minister-and-belarusian-deputy-minister-discuss-eu-belarus-relations-in-minsk>  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/434449.html>
- 04.02.2015** Representatives of Belarus, Egypt and Qatar organized in the UN headquarters an event dedicated to the creation of a group of Friends of the Family under the banner of the "traditional values".  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/434298.html>  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-egypt-qatar-initiating-group-of-friends-of-family-in-un-hq-10085-2015>
- 09.02.2015** Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei paid an official visit to Syria. He stated that Belarus supports the Syrian people in their struggle against foreign interference and terrorism.  
 en [http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news\\_mfa/cdea86312c24ad6a.html](http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news_mfa/cdea86312c24ad6a.html)  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/434938.html>  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/435209.html>
- 10.02.2015-11.02.2015** The plan of implementation of the Minsk agreements during the year 2015 was approved in order to de-escalate the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine. The leaders of Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia negotiated the agreement in the "Normandy format." The document was signed by the contact group consisting of representatives of Ukraine, Russia and the unrecognized Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics.  
 ru doc <http://www.osce.org/ru/cio/140221?download=true>  
 en <http://in.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-minsk-source-idINKBN0LE2NQ20150210>  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/435406.html>
- 03.03.2015** The meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State of Belarus and Russia.  
 ru [http://president.gov.by/ru/news\\_ru/view/zasedanie-vysshego-gossoveta-sojuznogo-gosudarstva-10940/](http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/zasedanie-vysshego-gossoveta-sojuznogo-gosudarstva-10940/)  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/438092.html>  
 en <http://tass.ru/en/economy/780780>

- 09.03.2015** Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Elena Kupchina headed the Belarusian delegation that took part in the fifth round of consultations on the modernization of the European Union in Brussels.  
 en <http://belarusinfocus.info/p/6620>  
 ru [http://mfa.gov.by/press/news\\_mfa/db2a8cdf8ad96367.html](http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/db2a8cdf8ad96367.html)  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/438829.html>
- 10.03.2015** Russia addressed Belarus an offer to represent the interests of the Russian Federation in the Joint Consultative Group (JCG) of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE).  
 ru <http://lenta.ru/news/2015/03/10/midgo/>  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-asked-to-represent-russias-interests-in-cfe-joint-consultative-group-10968-2015>
- 13.03.2015** State Secretary of Vatican Cardinal Pietro Parolin visited Belarus.  
 ru <https://belapan.com/archive/2015/03/14/764943/>  
 en <http://belarusinfocus.info/by/p/6626>  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/society/view/metropolitan-pavel-meets-with-vatican-cardinal-pietro-parolin-11022-2015>
- 17.03.2015-  
18.03.2015** Representatives of the Belarusian democratic forces but not from Belarusian Parliament took part in the fourth plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the EU program "Eastern Partnership" ("Euronest") in Yerevan.  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/440163.html>  
 ru <http://vybory.ej.by/opinions/2015/03/18/milinkevich-oppozitsiya-za-diskussiyu-v-parlamente-a-ne-na-ulitsah.html>
- 31.03.2015** Belarusian Foreign Ministry announced the normalization of relations with USA.  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/441979.html>  
 ru <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/ababd2c5c9c26f83.html>
- 02.04.2015** Alexander Lukashenko signed a decree № 3 "On the prevention of social dependency" ("a parasite law")  
 ru [http://www.nalog.gov.by/ru/news\\_ministerstva\\_ru/view/prezident-respubliki-belarus-aleksandr-lukashenko-2-aprelja-podpisa-dekret-3-o-preduprezhdenii-sotsialnogo-16321/](http://www.nalog.gov.by/ru/news_ministerstva_ru/view/prezident-respubliki-belarus-aleksandr-lukashenko-2-aprelja-podpisa-dekret-3-o-preduprezhdenii-sotsialnogo-16321/)  
 ru <http://euroradio.fm/ru/yurist-dekret-o-tuneyadcah-narushaet-minimum-5-statey-konstitucii>  
 en <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/ekaterina-loushnikova/%E2%80%98parasite-law%E2%80%99-in-belarus>

- 07.04.2015** The Belarusian democratic political forces (campaign “Right to Choose”) made an attempt to apply for the amendments to the election law. The proposal was denied due to the beginning of the official election process in July.  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/443019.html>  
 eng [http://www.pvby.org/index.php?action\\_skin\\_change=yes&skin\\_name=en](http://www.pvby.org/index.php?action_skin_change=yes&skin_name=en)
- 16.04.2015 - 17.04.2015** During the official visit to Minsk the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy Johannes Hahn had meetings with representatives of the democratic forces and the official authorities of Belarus.  
 ru <http://eurobelarus.info/news/policy/2015/04/16/v-minsk-s-dvuhdnevny-m-vizitom-pribyl-evrokomissar-han.html>  
 en <https://charter97.org/en/news/2015/4/16/147839/>  
 en [http://president.gov.by/en/news\\_en/view/meeting-with-european-commissioner-for-european-neighborhood-policy-and-enlargement-negotiations-johannes-11216/](http://president.gov.by/en/news_en/view/meeting-with-european-commissioner-for-european-neighborhood-policy-and-enlargement-negotiations-johannes-11216/)
- 21.04.2015** A meeting of ministers of countries - participants of the initiative "Eastern Partnership" dedicated to the preparation of the Riga summit was held April 20 in Luxembourg. Belarus was represented by Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei who urged the EU to the early start of dialogue with the EAEC  
 en [http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news\\_mfa/b622c4fd0a5114a3.html](http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news_mfa/b622c4fd0a5114a3.html)  
 ru [euroradio.fm/ru/makey-v-lyuksemburge-prizval-skoree-nachat-dialog-mezhdu-es-i-eaes-foto](http://euroradio.fm/ru/makey-v-lyuksemburge-prizval-skoree-nachat-dialog-mezhdu-es-i-eaes-foto)
- 04.05.2015** The UN Human Rights Council gave recommendations to Belarus. The main issues were a moratorium on death penalty, the freedom for political prisoners, and the introduction of the ombudsman position.  
 en <http://www.en.eurobelarus.info/news/society/2015/05/05/un-human-rights-council-gave-recommendations-to-belarus.html>
- 06.05.2015** Regular meeting of the The Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) to resolve the situation in Ukraine was held in Minsk. It was the inauguration and the first meeting of the working groups.  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/446750.html>  
 en <http://www.osce.org/cio/155486>  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/russias-representatives-in-subgroups-of-contact-group-on-ukraine-named-12270-2015>
- 10.05.2015** Belarus and China have signed a package of agreements and memorandums totaling more than \$ 3.5 billion. The agreements were signed in the Palace of Independence in Minsk, in the presence of the leaders of the two countries Alexander Lukashenko and Xi Jinping.  
 en <https://charter97.org/en/news/2015/5/12/151134/>  
 ru <http://www.interfax.by/news/belarus/1183659>

- 11.05.2015** During the Belarusian-Chinese interregional business forum the Belarusian President suggested the Chinese leader of assistance and cooperation in entering the markets of the EU and the EAEC.  
 en [http://president.gov.by/en/news\\_en/view/state-visit-of-china-president-xi-jinping-to-belarus-11369/](http://president.gov.by/en/news_en/view/state-visit-of-china-president-xi-jinping-to-belarus-11369/)  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/economics/447381.html>
- 12.05.2015** The European Parliament created a support group for Belarusian political prisoners, consisting of six deputies.  
 en <http://euroradio.fm/en/european-parliament-sets-support-group-belarusian-political-prisoner>  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/447851.html>
- 14.05.2015** By the decision of Ministers of Education of the European space Belarus was accepted to the European Area of Higher Education. Now Belarus has 3 years to fit the requirements for the membership in the process.  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/society/view/belarus-accession-to-bologna-process-approved-by-european-education-ministers-12502-2015>  
 en <http://belarusinfocus.info/p/6696>  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/society/448366.html>
- 19.05.2015** The US Department of State addressed a calling to the Belarusian authorities to release all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally and respect their political rights.  
 en <https://charter97.org/en/news/2015/5/19/152139/>  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/448583.html>
- 21.05.2015-  
22.05.2015** Belarus was represented by the Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei at the summit of the Eastern partnership.  
 en [http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news\\_mfa/e97e7400dd315e6f.html](http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news_mfa/e97e7400dd315e6f.html)  
 en <https://charter97.org/en/news/2015/5/21/152376/>  
 ru <http://www.belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-belarus-vsegda-priderzhivalas-pozitsii-chno-vostochnoe-partnerstvo-ne-dolzhno-byt-napravleno-3335-2015>
- 10.06.2015** US President Barack Obama extended the sanctions against Belarusian officials for another year. The decision was grounded by the fact that the actions of certain members of the Belarusian government "represent an extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."  
 en <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/06/10/notice-continuation-national-emergency-respect-belarus>  
 en <http://belarusdigest.com/story/belarus-and-united-states-stepping-stones-nowhere-22850>  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/451528.html>

- 10.06.2015** **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Belarus Alexander Surikov stated that in 2015 Russia would restructure Belarus' loans for \$ 1.3 billion.**  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/economics/451407.html>  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/economics/view/negotiations-on-common-macroeconomic-policy-in-progress-in-eurasian-economic-union-13140-2015>
- 16.06.2015** The Ministry of Defense of Belarus held meetings of the Belarusian authorities with OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and OSCE ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link. Following the meetings, the sides have signed a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Belarus and the OSCE on the joint project of stocks of liquid rocket fuel components.  
 ru <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-obse-podpisali-memorandum-o-likvidatsii-zapasov-komponentov-zhidkogo-raketnogo-topliva-4541-2015>  
 en <http://www.belarus.by/en/press-center/news/lukashenko-belarus-and-the-osce-work-together-to-implement-projects-vital-for-europe-i-24587.html>
- 18.06.2015** Belarusian left parties and independent professional unions launched a campaign against the “parasite law”.  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/452686.html>  
 en info <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/ekaterina-loushnikova/%E2%80%98parasite-law%E2%80%99-in-belarus>
- 18.06.2015 - 19.06.2015** For the first time since 2010 a delegation from the European Parliament visited Belarus. Eight deputies had meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Election Commission, the Council of the Republic, talked with representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the democratic political forces and civil society.  
 en [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/documents/afet/dv/statement\\_minsk\\_/statement\\_minsk\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/afet/dv/statement_minsk_/statement_minsk_en.pdf)  
 ru <http://news.tut.by/politics/452885.html>
- 30.06.2015** Members of the House of Representatives supported the appointment of the Belarusian presidential elections 2015 to October 11.  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/parliament-approves-11-october-2015-as-belarus-president-election-date-83289-2015>  
 ru <http://belapan.by/archive/2015/06/30/786308/>

- 01.07.2015 –** First stage of the Presidential elections:  
**22.07.2015** - formation of the territorial election commissions (that included only a small percentage of representatives of the democratic political forces);  
 en [http://www.belhelcom.org/sites/default/files/report\\_formation\\_tec\\_full\\_en.pdf](http://www.belhelcom.org/sites/default/files/report_formation_tec_full_en.pdf)
- registration of initiative groups of potential candidates; The initiative groups of Haidukevich, Ulakhovich, Liabedzka, Kaliakin, Karatkevich, Romanovskaya, Tereshchenko, Lukashenko were registered and had the right to gather signatures during the next period (100 000 signatures required for registration by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC)  
 ru <http://telegraf.by/2015/07/296190-vibori-2015-v-belarusi-ostalos-8-pretendentov-na-post-prezidenta>
- 23.07.2015 –** Second stage of the elections which included gathering signatures. Two potential  
**21.08.2015** candidates – Liabedzka, the United Civic Party leader and Kaliakin, the ‘Fair World’ leader - announced their failure in collecting the required amount of signatures.  
 en <https://charter97.org/en/news/2015/8/21/165595/>  
 ru <http://vybory.ej.by/candidate/2015/08/21/kalyakin-i-lebedko-ne-sobrali-podpisi-dlya-vydvizheniya-v-kandidaty.html>
- 12.08.2015 -** Belarusian foreign minister Vladimir Makei paid an official visit to Ukraine.  
**16.08.2015** en <http://belarusdigest.com/story/belarus-engages-ukraine-moldova-improves-ties-eu-and-us-%E2%80%93-foreign-policy-digest-23101>  
 ru <http://belapan.by/archive/2015/08/12/794004/>  
 ru [http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2015/08/18/ic\\_articles\\_112\\_189536](http://naviny.by/rubrics/politic/2015/08/18/ic_articles_112_189536)
- 22.08.2015** Belarusian president Aliaksandr Lukashenko pardoned and released ex-presidential candidate Mikalai Statkevich and other political prisoners.  
 en [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=44342&cHash=4b86e920dd7d7263afaed95dc71790d4#.VpteOILSISA](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=44342&cHash=4b86e920dd7d7263afaed95dc71790d4#.VpteOILSISA)  
 en <http://www.en.eurobelarus.info/news/politics/2015/08/27/u-s-release-of-political-prisoners-is-an-important-step-toward.html>  
 ru <https://charter97.org/ru/news/2015/8/22/165737/>

- 22.08.2015 - 15.09.2015** The potential candidates submitted their documents for registration, CEC approved only 4 of them: Current Belarusian President A. Lukashenko, the leader of Liberal democratic party of Belarus O. Haidukevich, the leader of Belarusian patriotic party M. Ulakhovich and an activist of the Civil Campaign “Tell the Truth” T. Karatkevich. This was a starting point for the agitation period until the day of elections.  
 ru info <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/programmy-kandidatov-v-prezidenty-respubliki-belarus-163515-2015/>  
 en <http://www.rferl.org/content/belarus-presidential-candidates-lukashenka/27237250.html>
- 25.08.2015** The formation of precinct election commissions that again included a very small number of inner independent observers.  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/election-2015.-more-cis-observers-for-belarus-president-election-by-10-september-84449-2015>
- 13.09.2015** Following the recent developments in Belarus, including the release of the political prisoners European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Belarus.  
 en <http://www.en.eurobelarus.info/news/politics/2015/09/13/european-parliament-adopts-a-resolution-on-the-situation-in.html>
- 04.10.2015** Mass protest against the presumable deployment of a Russian military base in the Belarusian city of Babruysk. The public meeting took place in Minsk and was organized by former political prisoner Mikalai Statkevich and other representatives of the democratic political forces of Belarus.  
 ru <http://euroradio.fm/ru/v-minske-proshla-akciya-protiv-rossiyskoy-voennoy-bazy-onlayn-foto-video>  
 en <https://charter97.org/en/news/2015/10/5/171986/>
- 06.10.2015 – 10.10.2015** Criticized by observers early voting took place.  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/election-2015-early-voting-kicks-off-in-belarus-85925-2015/>  
 en <http://belarusdigest.com/story/early-voting-secret-successful-authoritarian-election-23450>  
 ru [http://naviny.by/rubrics/elections/2015/10/10/ic\\_articles\\_623\\_189989/](http://naviny.by/rubrics/elections/2015/10/10/ic_articles_623_189989/)
- 08.10.2015** Belarusian author Svetlana *Alexievich* won the *Nobel Prize* for Literature.  
 en <http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-34475251>  
 ru <http://www.belta.by/culture/view/belorusskoj-pisatelnitse-svetlane-aleksievich-vruchena-nobelevskaja-premija-po-literature-173665-2015/>



- 11.10.2015** Election day. The official results indicate that Alexander Lukashenko has been elected to fill the country's top executive post by securing 5,102,478 votes. The figure represents 83.5% of the vote or over half of the Belarus citizens, who cast their ballots. 201,945 voters (3.3%) cast ballots in favor of Sergei Gaidukevich. Tatiana Korotkevich won 271,426 votes (4.4%), Nikolai Ulakhovich — 102,131 (1.7%). The option None of the Above attracted 386,225 people (6.3%) while 48,808 ballot papers (0.8%) were invalidated.  
 en <http://belarusdigest.com/story/belarus-presidential-elections-2015-live-updates-minsk-23422>  
 en <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/11/alexander-lukashenko-expected-to-remain-as-belarusian-president>  
 en [http://www.belarus.by/en/press-center/belarus-election-2015-news/final-results-of-belarus-president-elections-released\\_i\\_0000030259.html](http://www.belarus.by/en/press-center/belarus-election-2015-news/final-results-of-belarus-president-elections-released_i_0000030259.html)  
 en <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/belarus/174776>
- 29.10.2015** The European Union and the United States have suspended most sanctions against Belarus, citing "improving relations" and the release of several activists that Brussels and Washington considered political prisoners.  
 en <http://www.rferl.org/content/eu-belarus-sanctions-suspended-four-months/27333874.html>  
 en <http://belarusdigest.com/story/editorial-why-eu-lifts-belarus-sanctions-23611>  
 ru [http://naviny.by/rubrics/eu/2015/10/29/ic\\_articles\\_627\\_190149/](http://naviny.by/rubrics/eu/2015/10/29/ic_articles_627_190149/)
- 02.11.2015** A senior World Bank economist Ruslan Piontkivsky at a briefing in Minsk said that according to the forecast of the World Bank after the fall of GDP in 2015 and 2016 there is a chance for a slight increase only in 2017.  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/economics/view/world-bank-expects-belarus-economy-recovery-in-2017-86684-2015/>  
 ru <http://ej.by/news/economy/2015/11/02/vsemirnyy-bank-rost-ekonomiki-belarusi-vozobnovitsya-tolko-v-2017.html>
- 26.11.2015** Belarus and China have announced that \$550mln will be invested into the Belarusian-Chinese industrial park "Great Stone".  
 en <http://eng.belta.by/economics/view/china-merchants-group-to-invest-550m-in-logistics-subpark-in-china-belarus-industrial-park-87250-2015/>
- 27.11.2015** Minsk held a conference "Political techniques in modern authoritarian regimes as a challenge to transformation". The event, in addition to representatives of Belarus, was also attended by experts from Armenia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine, who shared their views on the processes taking place in authoritarian systems of the former Soviet Union.  
 en <http://en.eurobelarus.info/news/politics/2015/11/30/political-techniques-of-authoritarian-regimes-from-natural-to.html>  
 ru <http://ej.by/news/politics/2015/11/27/v-minske-obsudili-polittechnologii-tretego-pokoleniya.html>

- 09.12.2015** Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Alena Kupchyna met the EU delegation to discuss current issues of interaction between Belarus and the European Union.  
[en http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news\\_mfa/c51246be4f30725a.html](http://mfa.gov.by/en/press/news_mfa/c51246be4f30725a.html)  
 Gunnar Wiegand, Deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia of the EEAS during a press conference in the European Union representative office stated that the text of the agreement on facilitating visa regulations between Belarus and the European Union is ready for signing.  
[en http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-eu-visa-facilitation-agreement-ready-for-signing-87541-2015/](http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-eu-visa-facilitation-agreement-ready-for-signing-87541-2015/)
- 13.12.2015 - 14.12.2015** Paying a working visit to Brussels Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Makei met with EU top officials and NATO Deputy Secretary General. At the meetings issues of cooperation between Belarus and the European Union and NATO were discussed.  
[en http://www.rferl.org/content/belarus-foreign-minister-meets-with-eu-nato-officials-in-brussels/27425557.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/belarus-foreign-minister-meets-with-eu-nato-officials-in-brussels/27425557.html)  
[en http://belsat.eu/en/news/multi-vector-belarus-lukashenka-meets-with-putin-fm-holds-talks-with-eu-nato/](http://belsat.eu/en/news/multi-vector-belarus-lukashenka-meets-with-putin-fm-holds-talks-with-eu-nato/)  
[en http://belarusdigest.com/story/eu-double-assistance-belarus-belarus-foreign-policy-digest-24161](http://belarusdigest.com/story/eu-double-assistance-belarus-belarus-foreign-policy-digest-24161)
- 15.12.2015** Meeting of President Lukashenko with President Putin. The sides agreed to boost bilateral military and military-technical cooperation to support their coordinated foreign policy in the international arena.  
[en http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/putin-belarus-russia-agree-to-boost-military-and-military-technical-cooperation-87663-2015/](http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/putin-belarus-russia-agree-to-boost-military-and-military-technical-cooperation-87663-2015/)  
[ru http://news.tut.by/politics/477155.html](http://news.tut.by/politics/477155.html)
- 16.12.2015** Lukashenko signed a decree appointing members of the government, which is again headed by prime minister Andrei Kobjakov, who holds this position since December 2014. The only new face among the Belarusian ministers is Uladzimir Kaltovich as the Minister of Trade.  
[ru http://ej.by/news/politics/2015/12/16/lukashenko-gotov-perenaznachit-glavu-pravitelstva.html](http://ej.by/news/politics/2015/12/16/lukashenko-gotov-perenaznachit-glavu-pravitelstva.html)  
[en http://president.gov.by/en/news\\_en/view/alexander-lukashenko-makes-new-appointments-in-government-12746/](http://president.gov.by/en/news_en/view/alexander-lukashenko-makes-new-appointments-in-government-12746/)
- 21.12.2015** Washington called on Minsk for holding the parliamentary elections 2016 in accordance with international standards. Also Washington called Minsk for a continuation of the human rights dialogue.  
[en http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-united-states-agree-to-continue-human-rights-dialogue-87788-2015/](http://eng.belta.by/politics/view/belarus-united-states-agree-to-continue-human-rights-dialogue-87788-2015/)  
[ru http://ej.by/news/politics/2015/12/19/ssha-prizvali-minsk-provesti-parlamentskie-vybory-2016-po.html](http://ej.by/news/politics/2015/12/19/ssha-prizvali-minsk-provesti-parlamentskie-vybory-2016-po.html)

**21.12.2015**

Alexander Lukashenko took part in the meeting of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in extended composition in Moscow.

[ru http://www.belta.by/president/view/strany-eaes-vyrabotajut-mery-zaschity-rynka-posle-nachala-dejstvija-zst-ukrainy-i-es-175076-2015/](http://www.belta.by/president/view/strany-eaes-vyrabotajut-mery-zaschity-rynka-posle-nachala-dejstvija-zst-ukrainy-i-es-175076-2015/),

[en http://www.belta.by/video/getRecord/549/](http://www.belta.by/video/getRecord/549/)

**Your contact:**

Dr. Wolfgang Sender

Country Director Belarus, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Totoriu g. 21, LT-01121 Vilnius, Lithuania

Phone +370 5 26 29 475, Fax: +370 5 21 22 294, Mobile Lithuania: +370 656 75 204

Skype: wolfgang-sender, wolfgang.sender@kas.de

