

Programme

European Office, Brussels

The Morning After – Belarus has voted

Monday, 26 February 2024

09:30-10:15 CET

Online Event (via Zoom)

The European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is very pleased to invite you to the next session of our event format "**The Morning After**". In this online format, we are monitoring the Parliamentary and/or Presidential Elections in European states and discuss the results with our KAS colleagues in the respective country. Furthermore, we try to assess the implications the result could have for the country's relationship with the European Union. This session will focus on **Belarus**, where **Parliamentary Elections** is scheduled for **25 February 2024**.

Around three and a half years after the rigged and internationally sharply criticised Presidential Election, which gave ruler Alyaksandr Lukashenka his sixth term as head of state in Belarus, his regime is calling on the people of the country to vote in a Parliamentary Election at the end of February. No surprises are to be expected. Only loyalists are represented in the 110-seat House of Representatives, the last real opposition forces were excluded in the run-up to the election. The head of state had already announced in advance that Western election observers were unwelcome and that he would be able to ensure that the vote was conducted properly himself. Since the waves of arrests in the wake of the mass protests following the Presidential Elections, the democratic opposition has mainly been organised abroad and has continuously denounced the gross discrimination of people with dissenting political opinions and the disregard for democratic values. The president, who is largely isolated internationally outside a circle of dictatorially governed countries and whom some observers have labelled the "last dictator of Europe", appears unimpressed by this and wants to consolidate his unchallenged position in the country through the Parliamentary Elections. However, it remains to be seen how people will react to another less credible election result on 25 February. While the state apparatus is likely to do everything in its power to prevent images like those after the last Presidential Election, the opposition emphasises that it has not yet given up its resistance to the regime and will continue to campaign for a free Belarus.

What were the results of the so-called Parliamentary Elections? What reactions can be expected to the election results? How has the situation of the Belarusian opposition changed since the mass protests in summer 2020? Is there a realistic chance of a free Belarus, which the opposition repeatedly invokes?

The event „**The Morning After – Belarus has voted**” will take place on **Monday, 26 February 2024** from **09:30-10:15 CET** via Zoom. We look forward to discussing the election result with our colleague **Jakob Wöllenstein**, Director of the KAS Office Belarus. After the conversation between Mr Wöllenstein and **Kai Gläser**, Policy Advisor at the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the audience will have the opportunity to contribute their questions to the discussion. The event will be held in **German** with simultaneous interpretation into **English**.

We look forward to your participation!

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- 09:00 **Welcoming**
- Kai Gläser**
Policy Advisor at the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- 09:05 **Discussion about the Parliamentary Elections 2024 and their national and European implications**
- Kai Gläser**
Policy Advisor at the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- Jakob Wöllenstein**
Director of the KAS Office Belarus
- 09:35 **Questions from the audience**
- 09:45 **End of event**

Information on registration and participation:

Please register by providing your name, email address, organisation and position. You will then receive a confirmation of your registration and further information on how to participate in the online event.

During the online event:

During the event, you will not be connected via video and will be muted by the host. After the speakers' short statements, you are welcome to join the conversation by asking the speakers a written question (click on the Q&A icon in the toolbar).