

Endorsement statement by the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum for the “Joint letter of civil society representatives to the leaders of the European Union on vaccination in Eastern Europe”

Brussels, 13 April 2021

The Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum joined to support a letter of civil society representatives on COVID-19 vaccination in the Eastern Partnership sent to EU leaders on 2 April 2021.

The substantial surge in vaccinations in EU member states comes as a relief to us in these troubling times, a success for which the EU must be credited with. However, the fact most Eastern partners have yet to see vaccinations simply begin in their countries with hardly any prospect of improvement in the near future is both disturbing and worrying.

Through their letter, the civil society representatives have well described the current tense situation and the need for the EU to follow through on the solidarity it has shown since the beginning of the pandemic towards the Balkan and Eastern Partnership states.

The EU is today presented with a unique window of opportunity to come out as the main partner in these regions with regards to vaccines and post-pandemic recovery. That window is however closing, as other global actors have started filling the spaces currently left by the EU, well-aware of the quantity of *soft power* the vaccines carry. Actions must be taken swiftly for the EU not to lose years of progress in building strong partnerships with these countries.

Based on the above-mentioned points, the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society wants to affirm its full endorsement of the [joint letter](#) of civil society representatives and urges the EU leaders to respond to the concerns and suggestions made in it.

***Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership
Civil Society Forum***

Sofia Strive, ForumCiv, Sweden, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee

Irina Sukhy, Ecohome, Belarus, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee

Sintija Bernava, Donum Animus, Latvia

Lousineh Hakobyan, Europe in Law Association, Armenia

Ruslan Havryliuk, National Ecological Center, Ukraine

Shahla Ismayil, Women’s Association for Rational Development (WARD), Azerbaijan

Maksym Koriavets, Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies, Ukraine

Natia Kuprashvili, Journalism Resource Center, Georgia

Adrian Lupusor, Expert-Grup, Moldova

Goda Neverauskaitė, European Trade Union Confederation, Belgium

Ana Otilia Nutu, Expert Forum, Romania

Tatiana Poshevalova, Centre for Social Innovations, Belarus

Yurii Vdovenko, Center for Cross-Border Cooperation, Ukraine