

**EaP CSF Monitoring Mission  
on the adherence of the authorities of the Republic of Belarus to political and human rights,  
situation of civil society and media during the presidential elections on August 9, 2020**

**Terms of Reference**

The EaP CSF Monitoring Mission to Belarus is formed based on the suggestions of the EaP CSF Belarusian National Platform (BNP) with the support of the EaP CSF Steering Committee and participation of experts representing EaP CSF members.

**The aims of the Monitoring Mission are:**

- Collection and synthesis of information on the situation in short pre- and post-election period, assessing the adherence of the authorities of the Republic of Belarus to political rights and human rights standards;
- collection and synthesis of information on the state of civil society and media against the backdrop of the developments in the country in the run up to the presidential elections and in the election aftermath, analysis of possible consequences for civil society and media environment;
- development of mission report, including recommendations for the EU stakeholders (EEAS, DG NEAR, European Parliament, EU member states) on post-election approach and policy actions to be taken in response to the developments in the country;
- development of recommendations on how to support the civil society in Belarus in the post-election period;
- support the Belarusian National Platform in the dissemination of objective information about the situation in the country, adherence of the authorities to human rights standards and political rights, with focus on the situation of civil society and media;
- support to dissemination of the mission report and recommendations.

The Monitoring Mission is to be of **joint and short-term nature, combining online and offline tools** due to the situation related to COVID-19 and impossibility to travel to Belarus in the month of August 2020. The Monitoring Mission is to **prepare a mission report with recommendations and is to present it to the EaP CSF Steering Committee no later than 3 working days from the date of completion of the mission (17 August 2020).**

The planned **dates for the Monitoring Mission are 3-14 August 2020.** The dates can be adjusted according to the developments and availability of the members of the Monitoring Mission to conduct the online part of the assessment.

The Monitoring Mission will be composed of representatives of EaP CSF member organizations from the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries approved by the Steering Committee in coordination with

the Belarusian National Platform. The Monitoring Mission should be composed of **three members from the EU or other EaP country but Belarus to be paired with three local experts, members of BNP, facilitating the collection and flow of information, scheduling online interviews and reporting from the ground.**

**The requirements for the members of the Monitoring Mission include:**

- experience with monitoring methodology and use of online and offline methods of work
- experience with online platforms and communication tools to be used for communication during the mission (Zoom, etc)
- experience in monitoring fieldwork
- knowledge of international human rights norms, political rights, local and regional context
- working knowledge of the English and Russian language
- ability to work in a team with pre-determined goals and timeline (short deadlines)
- excellent communication and drafting skills
- consent not to disseminate information beyond the agreed objectives, assessment, conclusions and recommendations

**The timeline of the monitoring mission:**

- **The preparatory phase:** August 3 (joint online meeting via Zoom) - to finalize the methodology, determine the distribution of roles and tasks, pairing the experts, developing a joint timeline for drafting the mission report
- **The monitoring and analysing phase:** August 4-12 - collecting information, conducting online interviews, analysing and synthesizing data, monitoring and assessing the post-election developments, drafting the report and recommendations
- **The post-fieldwork phase:** August 13-17 – finalization of the mission report with recommendations, submission of the mission report on Monday, August 17 to the EaP CSF Secretariat

The work of the Monitoring Mission is to be managed by the **Leader of the Mission**. The specification of methodology to be used by the Monitoring Mission is to be developed by the Leader of the Mission and consulted and finalized with all members during the preparatory phase.

The main method of collecting information are **desk research** and **semi-structured interviews**, facilitated by the BNP mission members. The interviews should involve the media and civil society representatives working in different fields, lawyers (in exceptional cases, the victims of the harassment and their families), representatives of political initiatives and candidates teams running in the elections, representatives of major international institutions in Minsk, including the EU Delegations and embassies of the EU and EaP member states. The final list of interviewees will be agreed among the members of the Monitoring Mission.

The interviews are to be carried out by the members of the Monitoring Mission in pairs or individually. The results of the interviews would be summarized on daily basis in a single working document, accessible to all members of the Monitoring Mission. Methods of interviewing will be clarified during the preparatory phase by the Leader of the Mission. In total, **at least 30 interviews** are expected to be conducted during the monitoring and analysing phase – **10 interviews per each pair**.

### **Description of tasks:**

#### **Leader of the Mission**

- leading the mission
- drafting and finalising the methodology of the mission, setting the joint working procedures (online and offline)
- conducting the interviews
- additional liaison with the interviewees
- managing the drafting of the report
- developing recommendations
- finalising the report (methodology, description of the interviewing process, final recommendations)
- liaising and supporting the EaP CSF Secretariat in preparation of the press release, targeted communication with stakeholders - recipients of the report

#### **Expert 1 and 2** (EU or non-Belarus EaP country)

- contributing to the finalisation of the methodology
- working in pair with BNP colleagues
- conducting the interviews
- desk research and analysis of relevant documents – statements, reports etc.
- drafting the final report
- developing the recommendations

#### **Expert 3-5** (local, BNP member)

- contributing to the finalisation of the methodology
- working in pair with the Leader of the Mission, expert 1-2
- organising and facilitating the interviews via online tools
- co-conducting the interviews
- providing additional liaison with the interviewees if needed
- drafting the final report
- developing the recommendations