



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH

Youth and the social movement in Belarus

Online panel discussion

Overview: Concerned about the intimidation and arrests of youth civil society representatives and other young citizens in Belarus, the Advisory Council on Youth is organising an online panel discussion on the evolving situation in Belarus since the elections last August. The debate is being organised in response to a call by activists in Belarus for support in their struggle for human rights and democracy, to observe 20 September as Global Day of Solidarity for Belarus, and to organise a week of solidarity events from 21-26 September.

Mr Boriss Cilevičs, chairperson of the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, activists from the Belarusian National Youth Council – RADA and the European Youth Forum will join the Advisory Council on Youth to share their views and engage in dialogue.

Date and time: 23 September 2020, 18.00

Address: @AdvisoryCouncilOnYouth / <https://www.facebook.com/AdvisoryCouncilOnYouth>

Panelists:

- **Boriss Cilevičs**, chairperson of the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Andrea Ugrinoska**, chair of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe (CCJ)
- **Dzmitry Herylovich**, chairperson of the National Youth Council of Belarus (RADA)
- **Silja Marjulla**, Board Member of the European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- **Lavon Marozau**, International Secretary of the National Youth Council of Belarus (RADA)
- **Tanya Lyubimova**, expert in youth sector, human rights and international organisations

Moderator: **Mihai Dragoș**, Vice-chair of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) (mihai.dragos@ctr.ro / +40 746359430)

Technical and visibility support: **Sean Ellul**, co-ordinator of strategic communications, visibility and outreach of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) (sean.ellul@gmail.com / +356 9945 9947).

Format:

- Speakers will be addressed questions as indicated below and asked to provide answers of about two minutes each. Some of the questions invite the speakers to raise issues that will invite reactions from speakers following them.
- Four people can be live and intervene at any given time. The others are still able to view the discussions while not in the session itself.

Moderator introduction:

- **Intro:** overview summary (see above), welcome message, introduction of guests (including institutions/organisations and roles) and thanking for participation
- **About the AC:** The Advisory Council on Youth is formed of 30 representatives of youth organisations and youth networks in Europe and is the non-governmental partner in the co-management system of the Council of Europe youth sector, the governmental partner being the European Steering Committee for Youth. The latter is formed of government representatives from Council of Europe member States and States Parties to the European Cultural Convention. The main task of the Advisory Council on Youth is to advise the Committee of Ministers on all questions related to youth.
- **About Belarus:** Belarus is a State Party to the European Cultural Convention and therefore a full member of the Joint Council on Youth, even though it is not a member State of the Council of Europe as such. It is worth noting that the Council of Europe has an Action plan for Belarus with a youth component that aims to support the emergence and development of a culture of democratic youth participation in youth organisations and public authorities.