

# **Declaration of the Civil Society Participants of the Eastern Partnership Conference**

## **“TOWARDS A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACY, PROSPERITY AND A STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY“**

Warsaw, 29th September 2011

1. The civil society participants of the Eastern Partnership Conference express their continuing concern about the ongoing human rights violations and the existence of political prisoners in some of the EaP countries. Of main concern are the recent arrest of the Belarusian human rights defender Ales Bialiacki and the danger of life and health of other political prisoners in Belarus.
2. The participants of the Conference call for more consistency of the EU policy towards the political developments in all countries of the Eastern Partnership. We call for unanimous condemnation of any restrictions of basic civil rights as the right for free elections, the right to assembly and the freedom of expression in all six countries of the Eastern partnership through EU institutions.
3. The participants of the Conference call for an increased assistance for the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum – including the installation of a permanent secretariat - and for the Civil Society Forum representatives to participate and comment on the relevant platforms of the Eastern Partnership including the summit meetings. We call for better opportunities to execute independent monitoring of the function of the EaP flagship projects and other intergovernmental initiatives of the EaP.