



Нацыянальная платформа

Форум грамадзянскай супольнасці  
УСХОДНЯГА ПАРТНЁРСТВА

**Resolution  
of the Conference of the National Platform  
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
"National Platform: 2012 - new reality in the old conditions"  
Minsk, 29-30 June 2012**

**Anent the European dialogue on modernization with Belarusian society**

On 29 March 2012, the European Union declared about its new initiative concerning Belarus - the European dialogue on modernization with Belarusian society. The "European dialogue" is aimed at formulating a clear vision of modern democratic Belarus; at offering a set of reforms necessary for the modernization of the country; at defining a potential and tools of possible support to reforms on the part of the EU; and at including the practical experience of the transition period of the EU countries in the process of modernization of Belarus.

Participants of the Conference of the National Platform of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership welcome the European dialogue on modernization with Belarusian society, share and support the aspiration of the European Union to build a meaningful dialogue with Belarus, its civil society, democratic forces, and government. At the same time, we regretfully constate the fact that regular infringements of human rights, restrictions of basic civil and political freedoms, and the presence in prisons of political opponents of the ruling power in our country hamper high-grade European-Belarusian cooperation. Due to these reasons, Belarus has already lost a number of opportunities presented by the Eastern Partnership. The European dialogue on modernization opens new possibilities, and only the will and actions of us, Belarusians, can make it possible for us to effectively use them for the sake of the country's development.

The questions of modernization and upgrading of Belarus are one of the most important in today's political agenda. The country critically needs to reform its economy, the system of education and justice, to liberalize its political life, and many other essential transformations. The absence of these reforms led to the hard economic consequences in 2011 and continues to negatively influence the welfare of the population and prospects of the future development of the country. Europeanization, a movement towards the implementation of modern European regulation standards, seems to us to be the only right way for today's Belarus.

We underline the topicality and timeliness of the European dialogue on modernization of Belarus. Its contents and course are defined not only by the situation "after the beginning of democracy", but also by the conditions of the modern political process in the country. Projects of reforms should be already today directed on real changes. We realize that the implementation of full-scale reforms will become possible only with the beginning in the country of political liberalization and political dialogue of the authorities with the political opposition and civil society. The "European dialogue" is aimed at spurring this process, including by means of coordinating positions between civil society and the political opposition of Belarus.

The European dialogue on modernization should draw attention to the organization of a direct dialogue of the European Union with Belarusian society concerning a wide spectrum of socially important topics and suggest positive offers for common citizens of Belarus. We urge the European Union to address to Belarusian society a clear signal about the European prospect by analogy with the accepted in 2006 documents "What the EU can bring to Belarus". The decision on cancellation unilaterally of payment for Schengen visas for citizens of Belarus can be one of important moments of such an offer.

We welcome a tripartite format of equal participation of EU representatives, Belarusian civil society and the political opposition, and the Belarusian authorities in the "European dialogue". We underline that a full-scale inclusion of representatives of the Belarusian authorities in the dialogue is not possible yet in the actual conditions. Only in case of the beginning of political liberalization, release of political prisoners, and change of conditions of the activity of civil society and the political opposition, full participation of government officials will become real.

Nevertheless, the format of a full-scale tripartite dialogue is necessary in the future. Only in this case will there be a possibility of the all-round implementation of modernization reforms.

We insist on making the authorities of Belarus take all necessary steps to solve the conflict with the European Union, including the carrying-out of free and democratic parliamentary elections.