

Destiny of Nuclear Power Plant Will be Decided

For Whose Money Nuclear Power Plant will be built?

Kazulin is a Candidate for Sacharov Award

Tour of Dictator Chavez

First Brest Investment Forum

"Free Theater" Started International Action of Cultural Workers

Recognition of the parliamentary elections by the EU, the USA and international European institutions is considered by Belarusian authorities as self-sufficient value that will open new opportunities for development of the country and at the same time as means of pressure on Russia that will strengthen negotiation opportunities of Belarus in bargaining with Russia



photo.bymedia.net

over economic cooperation conditions. After the Russian-Georgian War Belarusian regime is inclined to assess the establishment of closer relations with the West as additional safety guarantees. The question about recognition of Belarusian elections divided democratic countries. For many political analysts and businessmen the recognition is desirable, whilst for politicians this question remains controversial.

The EU and the US have given additional explanations on their viewpoints in this regard. Council of the EU Foreign Ministers made a statement that the EU will assess the situation in Belarus in terms of the democratic conduct of the elections and progress towards democracy and respect for human rights. The EU is ready to review the restrictive measures currently applying to certain leading figures in Belarus. According to the statement the main condition for restoring cooperation with Belarus is the recognition of these elections by the OSCE. David Kramer, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, said in the hearing on situation in Belarus held

ANNOUNCEMENT

Blog of a famous Belarusian political scientist Andrei Liachovich at the web-site www.belarus-live.eu

Parliamentary elections in Belarus: "Presidential list"

Lukashenko said on September 18 that he is interested in that the West would admit elections corresponding to democratic standards. But, as earlier, elections to Belarus are held according to the "Presidential list".

Authorities nominated basic candidates to deputies and their alternates – "independent" candidates. "Independent" candidates will create appearance of competitive elections in the case of boycott of candidates from opposition.

Continuation is here
<http://belarus-live.eu/en/index.php5>

by United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe that oncoming parliamentary elections could be one of the key points in improvement of relations between the USA and Belarus. United States Charge d'Affaires Jonathan Moore explained that US authorities have chosen Belarusian companies to cease sanctions (Lakokraska OAO and

Polotsk-Steklovolokno OAO) from the list proposed by Belarusian side. He also stressed that the reason for ceasing sanctions was the readiness to make a concrete step in reply to the freeing of political prisoners in August.

“Further steps of the American side will be based upon the development of situation with human rights in Belarus”, he added. Mr. Moore said that in case of “perfect developments” improvement of relations between the USA and Belarus could be a reason for significant support from the USA.

“We could help in attracting investments from the USA, support Belarus in joining the WTO and conclude bilateral contracts on development of



nuclear power. Cooperation in other spheres could be possible without restrictions too,” Jonathan Moore said.

Alyaksandr Lukashenka in the interview for “Financial Times” and “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” said that Belarus wants the West to recognize the parliamentary elections in the country.

“Our foreign policy couldn’t be different; it is based on the geographical location of the country”, Lukashenko said. “It is known that we are not only an integral part of Europe, but its geographical center”.

Lukashenka emphasized that Belarusian laws are broken in order to comply with EU standards. But he warns the EU and the US to be objective in their post-election assessments, accusing the west of “double standards”. He complains important countries with similar political shortcomings escape punishment, notably Russia.

“Will the West like it or not, but parliament will be elected in accordance with our Constitution,” he said. “I’m not going to beg for visa to the EU.”

The Belarusian president acknowledges he has irritated Russia by not recognizing the breakaway Georgian territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. But he does not rule out doing so in future, saying the new



parliament should have a say. He rejects as “absolutely stupid” suggestions that Russia’s action set a dangerous precedent for Belarus. “God forbid Russia should try and do the same against Belarus. In that unimaginable case Europe would have the full right to resist Russia with no compromise on any methods or leverage,” he says.

Mr Lukashenka wants the west to be more engaged in the former Soviet Union, saying western influence was the main reason why former Soviet states declined to follow Russia in recognizing Abkhazia and South Ossetia. But what is the guarantee

that, in the future, the west will be a strong enough counterweight to “the ever-increasing might of Russia and the growing influence of Russia in these countries”?

A day later in Vorsha Alyaksandar Lukashenka explained his viewpoints on problems in relations with the EU again. He said that he “will stop talking to them” if the West won’t recognize the parliamentary elections on 28th September as democratic. “These elections are as organized as never before”, Lukashenko stressed. He also expressed confidence that people won’t vote for opposition candidates as “they are all

unemployed”. “How can he win, how can people vote for an unemployed?” Lukashenko wondered.

“So opposition won’t gather pace. Perhaps, it would be well if somebody from opposition would win...”

Central Election Commission registered 55 candidates in the elections to the Council of the Republic, the upper chamber of Belarusian National Assembly. This is considered to be another stage of elections.

Among candidates are Henadz Navitski, chairperson of the Council of the Republic, Vadzim Papou, chairperson of the Chamber of Representatives, Nadziya Yermakova, chairperson of the board of “Belarusbank”, Nina Mazay, former Ambassador to Canada, Antanina Morava, deputy director of the Civil Service Institute, Anatol Rubinau, first deputy head of Presidential Administration, and Yauhien Smirnou, deputy chairman of the Supreme Economic Court. Primarily it was planned to register 56 persons, but archpriest Fiodar Pouny decided not to run as candidate in Minsk. Priest Fiodar hadn’t got a blessing for elections from Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Aleksiy II, said CEC secretary Mikalay Lazavik at the CEC meeting.

The Council comprises 64 members: eight members are elected from each of the country’s region and



Minsk City and eight members of the Council of the Republic are appointed by the President of Belarus. In this elections all seats are uncontested. 41 new members will be elected.

The elections to the Council of the Republic will take place from 21st September to 10th October at the sessions of local Councils of Deputies of the basic level.

Meanwhile, early voting has started a week before the Election Day. In addition, joint military manoeuvres of Russia and Belarus are in progress. Russian military planes are expected to appear in the Belarusian sky. And right after the elections, on 5th October Vladimir Putin will arrive to Minsk. Purpose of visit, as stated officially, is to discuss “significant” questions”.

OFFICIALLY

Destiny of Nuclear Power Plant Will be Decided

Building site for constructing Belarusian nuclear power plant will be chosen. The final decision will be made at a meeting, devoted exactly to that problem, in the Ministry of Energetic.

Three building sites are paid attention to – Astravetskaya, Krasnapalianskaya and Kukshynskaya. According to Belarusian authorities – none of them have contraindications for building the nuclear power station.

SOCIETY

For Whose Money Nuclear Power Plant will be built?

Almost half of Belarusian population is ready to invest in nuclear power plant construction, - reports Mikhail Hurs from Sociology Institute of Belarusian National Academy of Sciences.

49% of respondents agreed to participate somehow in financing of the Nuclear Power Plant construction,

- reported Mr. Hurs referring to the results of National public inquiry, that was held in December 2007 – February 2008. Overall 2011 respondents from all Belarusian regions took part in the survey.

Meanwhile the sociologist underlined that more than a half (51%) refused to finance the Construction. Although Mr. Hurs considers this result to be positive as it is a certain



reserve to increase the number of those who can agree to invest money. This can happen when people get more information

about advantages of Nuclear Power Plant and about participation in financing.

According to www.newsdate.by

OPPOSITION

Kazulin is a Candidate for Sacharov Award

Ex-presidential candidate, former prisoner of conscience Aliaksandr Kazulin is nominated to the European Parliament’s 2008 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.



photo.bymedia.net

Another nominee is a Chinese human rights activist Hu Jia who is currently under custody. The third candidate is Abbot Apollinaire Malu Malu, chair of the Independent Electoral Commission of Democratic Republic of Congo. The prize-winner will be chosen in mid-October and will receive the prize on 17 December.

The Sakharov Prize is awarded annually by European Parliament since 1988. The Prize is an award for €50 thousand.

Belarusian residents were awarded by European Parliament twice: Belarusian association of Journalists in 2004 and Aliaksandr Milinkevich in 2006.

POLITICS

Tour of Dictator Chavez

President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez is planning to visit Belarus and Russia after an official visit to China.



photo.bymedia.net

During a visit to China Venezuelan President will conduct negotiations with his colleague Hu Tzintao, and also other representatives of Chinese authorities and most important businessmen.

After Beijing Hugo Chavez will visit Russia and Belarus, and will later direct to France and Portugal.

ECONOMY

First Brest Investment Forum

The First Brest Investment Forum gathered 150 participants from business communities and diplomatic representations

of 16 states. This was a first event of such a level in Brest.

However this is the reason why the contract for €500 million between BelEnergiya Company and Italian capital can not yet be compared. Meanwhile it is BelEnergiya that intends to import and assemble new natural gas equipment.

Within the Forum the auction was held selling municipal property. Although not all the objects displaced found their customers. However organizers managed to sell the building of former headquarters at Kobryn presidio and a canteen in Kamianets.

However, certain issues of raising foreign investors' activity in Belarus still remain. Brest Regional Foundation of State Property concluded agreements with consulting companies that will help to attract customers. Moreover, Brest region intends to demonstrate its investment attractiveness in London within First Belarusian Investment Forum in November 2008.

CULTURE

"Free Theater" Started International Action of Cultural Workers

Belarusian actors commenced international action of cultural

workers supporting UN convention against violent disappearance. In Rotterdam within International Theatre Festival Belarusian 'Svobodny teatr' showed its performance 'Understanding love' about famous disappeared Belarusians.



photo.bymedia.net

The play is based upon real history of love and family of the Krasovsky. Iryna Krasovsky came to Rotterdam especially for the event.

The first to join the action supporting the UN convention against violent disappearance were British cultural workers who recorded two sound-tracks for the performance where they joined fragments of the Convention with music.

According to www.charter97.org



CENTRUM STOSUNKÓW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



EUROPEAN RADIO FOR BELARUS



There are various sites devoted to events in Belarus, which are, however, little known in Western Europe, and among people dealing with politics towards Belarus who do not understand the Russian or Belarusian languages.

The site [belarus-live](http://www.belarus-live.eu) fills this gap.
The site allows to order weekly reception of news in English, Polish, Belarusian, Russian.