

Actions and Reactions: Political Crisis in Belarus as Seen from Brussels and Moscow

Policy Paper Discussion

16.2.2021, 4.00 – 5.15 pm

Zoom

Coordination

Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (ÖFZ/CFA), Vienna
Ponto – Grassroots Think Tank for European and Foreign Policy, Vienna
International Institute for Peace, Vienna

Context and objectives

Belarusians have taken to the streets of their cities and towns for over six months now, demanding free and fair elections after the presidential vote in August had been blatantly rigged. The longer the political crisis drags on, the more Russia's and the EU's perceptions of this crisis and subsequent actions matter. The elites in Russia view the protest as coordinated by the West, whereas the EU considers it as a purely domestic issue. Russia has a high interest in Belarus, in terms of security, economics, culture etc. For the EU, stability in its neighboring country is the primary goal. The Belarusian crisis has thus gained a geopolitical dimension that will play a decisive role in its future development.

The panelists will present a recently published paper that investigates EU's and Russia's attitudes towards and treatment of the political situation in Belarus. The presentation will be followed by comments by the invited discussant and a conversation with the audience.

The Zoom link will be sent to all registered participants. Please register here.

Panelists

- **Magda STUMVOLL**, Research Fellow and project coordinator, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe/ Vice-President, Ponto – Grassroots Think Tank for European and Foreign Policy
- **Marylia HUSHCHA**, Research assistant, International Institute for Peace/ Board Member, Ponto – Grassroots Think Tank for European and Foreign Policy

Discussant

- **Benno ZOGG**, Senior Researcher, Center for Security Studies (CSS), ETH Zurich / co-head of the Peace & Security Programme, Foraus - The Swiss Think Tank on Foreign Policy

Moderation

- **Julius SEIDENADER**, Board Member, Ponto – Grassroots Think Tank for European and Foreign Policy