



Meetings with Belarusian ambassadors to the Nordic Countries September 2020

We speak on behalf of the Council of Nordic Trade Unions - NFS and our 15 member organisations which represents more than 8,5 million members including academics, white collar and blue-collar employees across all Nordic countries concerning the fraudulent conduct of the Belarus presidential elections. Among the affiliates, the Danish confederations FH and Akademikerne and the three Swedish organisations LO Sweden, TCO and Saco.

Our demands and concerns concerning the serious and alarming situation in Belarus ahead and after of the Presidential election August 9 and the escalating violence and brutal force used and arrests of protesters, citizens and trade unionists fighting for democracy, decency, and human rights.

- Redo elections, where fair and democratic conditions with full transparency under international supervision is guaranteed. All valid stakeholders in the process needs to be recognised and binding agreements must be concluded.
- Respect and free room for maneuver for the free trade union movement in their fight for respect and trade union rights, as well as the freedom of the country. The independent unions of Belarus are the largest democratic and independent civil society movement.
- Release of all protesters, citizens and trade unionists expressing their freedom of speech
- Immediate and total end of all forms of violence against citizens, protestors, and trade unionists
- End suppression of communications, internet, and media
- Respect the freedom of the press
- Allow free movement of citizens throughout the country as well as cross borders
- Immediate adoption, respect and application of the ILO fundamental conventions ratified by the state of Belarus to protect Trade Unions, workers, and their right to collective action.
- Urgent ratification and implementation of other essential ILO's conventions to guarantee workers and their democratically elected representatives' full democratic rights in working life as well as freedom for a democratic development for the entire Belarus.

NFS and our affiliates also support the legitimate demands put forward by the international community, such as:

NFS: [Statement on the situation on Belarus 2020-08-20](#)

ETUC – PERC: [Situation in Belarus: joint ETUC/PERC statement 2020-08-12](#)

ETUC – PERC: [Letter to Presidents von der Leyen, Michel and Sassoli on EU sanctions 2020-08-17](#)

ETUC: - [Letter to High Representative Borell Respect for fundamental Trade Union rights 2020-08-25](#)

ITUC: [Belarus' rigged presidential election must be re-run and police brutality must cease 2020-08-11](#)

ITUC: [Strikes and Workplace Protests add Pressure on Lukashenko to go 2020-08-17](#)

ITUC: [Belarus Government steps up effort to suppress strikes 2020-09-17](#)

ILO: [GD calls on Belarus President to respect workers' rights and freedoms amid protest 2020-09-09](#)

Baltic-Nordic Governments: [Joint Statement Nordic-Baltic Foreign Ministers on recent developments in Belarus 2020-08-12](#)

Nordic Governments: [Joint Statement by Nordic Foreign Ministers \(N5\) on, among other things, Belarus 2020-09-17](#)

Swedish Government: [Minister of employment on the situation concerning union rights in Belarus 2020-09-16](#)

EU: [Joint Statement by HR/VP Borrell and Commissioner Várhelyi on the Presidential elections in Belarus 2020-08-10](#)

EU: [Statement by HR/VP Borell -Thorough and transparent investigation into all alleged abuses 2020-08-17](#)

EU: [Statement President von der Leyen 2020-08-17](#)

EU: [Statement by HR/VP Borrell on arbitrary and unexplained arrests and detentions on political grounds in Belarus 2020-09-07](#)

EU: [Remarks by the HR/VP Borrell at the EP plenary on the situation in Belarus 2020-09-15](#)

OSCE: [Facilitate dialogue in Belarus 2020-08-28](#)

“The Belarussian regime has all but quenched all trade union rights despite ratification of ILO’s conventions on the right to strike and the right to organise. As Trade Unions are often seen as drivers of social change and democratisation the shutting down of trade union rights can only be seen as an attempt at hindering democratisation of Belarus” - states NFS chairperson Bente Sorgenfrey.