



#26052021, 26 May 2021

UNP EaP CSF Steering Committee Statement

condemning the unprecedented act of air piracy and seizing
of Belarusian journalist Raman Pratasevich

UNP EaP CSF Steering Committee supported the EaP CSF Steering Committee [statement](#) condemning the unprecedented act of air piracy and seizing of Belarusian journalist Raman Pratasevich.

We demand that the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine should impose sectoral economic sanctions on Belarus and personal sanctions on Belarusian companies and their owners under EU sanctions.

We call on the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to grant refugees from the Lukashenka regime the status of “temporary protection” in Ukraine as soon as possible as provided by the Law of Ukraine “On Refugees and Persons in Need of Additional or Temporary Protection”.

We welcome the [European Council Conclusions](#) from May 24 2021 and the unanimous condemnation of this coercive act.

We call on the EU Council, European Commission to put in place, without delay, the fourth package of sanctions against the leading figures of the regime and officials who took part in electoral fraud during the August 2020 presidential elections and subsequent human rights violations, as well as Belarusian companies that support the regime of A. Lukashenka.

We call on the EU Council, European Commission to initiate and swiftly impose further sanctions on the masterminds and perpetrators of the kidnapping of Raman Pratasevich and Sofia Sapega.

We call on EU member states and EaP countries to suspend international aviation agreements that allow flights to enter or leave Belarusian air space. We call on the EU to coordinate these steps with allied Western countries.

We call on the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to immediately start an investigation into this act of state-sponsored aviation piracy.

We call on the European External Action Service and the diplomatic representations of EU member states in Minsk to monitor the situations of the kidnapped persons and provide them with legal and any further assistance.



UKRAINIAN
NATIONAL PLATFORM

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

We call on the EU member states and the European Commission to take stock of the upcoming Covid-19 pandemic recovery payouts to the Belarusian regime, including those to be made through the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and to stop these payments.

We call on the EU member states, European External Action Service and the European Commission to keep following the situation of the repressed Belarusian journalists, activists and civil society representatives who are facing increasing pressure and hostile actions from the regime. The ongoing EU support to free media and civil society as well as visa and relocation assistance has to be stepped up in relation to the regime's actions against its opponents.

We call on the Belarusian authorities to swiftly release Raman Pratasevich and Sofia Sapega.

Members of the Steering Committee
of the Ukrainian National Platform of the EaP CSF

For reference:

The Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/>) is a network of more than 140 non-governmental organizations in Ukraine that advocates Ukrainian interests within the framework of the Eastern Partnership. The platform is part of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF). The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum is unique multi-layered regional civil society platform aimed at promoting European integration, facilitating reforms and democratic transformations in the six Eastern Partnership countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Serving as the civil society and people-to-people dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the EaP CSF strives to strengthen civil society in the region, boost pluralism in public discourse and policy making by promoting participatory democracy and fundamental freedoms. The EaP CSF is a non-partisan bona fide non-governmental

Secretariat
Ukrainian National Platform
Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
8/5-a Reytarska str. Kyiv- 01054 Ukraine
unp.eap@gmail.com