



Rīga Conference 2011 side events program discussion

Belarus: Lost in translation?

September 16, 2011

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel Rīdzene, Hall “Bastejs”

[1 Reimersa str, Riga](#)

“If the West intends to change Belarus, a serious “de-mythization” of it should first take place to choose the rights policy, and most importantly to find the right formula of assistance strategy that would promote the European values as the alternative for the current state of Belarus. The world should finally recognize that Belarus does not have a problem because it has Lukashenka, but it has Lukashenka because Belarus has a problem.”

Balazs Jarabik, Head of Pact Ukraine for the [Riga Conference Papers 2011](#)

- 9:30** Registration & morning coffee
- 10:00 – 11:30** Discussion about causes of the current crisis in Belarus, scenarios of further development and consequences to social and political stability of Belarus.
- 11:30 – 11:45** Coffee break
- 11:45 – 13:00** Discussion about policy towards Belarus in crisis and how to balance between wishful thinking of the West and pragmatic interests of individual countries
- Speakers:**
- Mr. Sergei Kizima**, Head of the Department of International Relations, Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus
 - Amb. Karel Kovanda**, Deputy Director-General (ret.), European Commission’s External Relations
 - Dr. Alexei Pikulik**, Analyst of the Belarus Institute of Strategic Studies
 - Mr. Rafał Sadowski**, Head of the Eastern Partnership Department of the Centre for Eastern Studies
 - Mr. Andris Razāns**, Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia

Commentator: **Dr. Andrew Wilson**, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations

Moderator: **Mr. Viktors Makarovs**, Director of policy centre EuroCivitas, Latvia