

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



The Director

DIRECTORATE Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia,
Regional Cooperation & OSCE

Brussels, 12.12.2014
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Legal Transformation Center
38-10 Novovilenskaia str.
Minsk - Belarus

Dear Ms. Smolianko,

Thank you for your letters of 18 November 2014 for the attention of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Federica Mogherini, and for my attention, requesting support for Mrs. Elena Tankacheva.

The letters were handed to me by Ms. Marina Adamovich with whom I had a meeting in Minsk on 18 November. Mrs. Mogherini has requested that I answer to you also in her name.

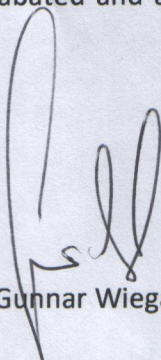
During my stay in Minsk I had the opportunity to personally meet Ms. Tankacheva and to learn first-hand about her situation and the background to her case.

We take the information received very seriously and regret that civil society representatives in Belarus continue to be subjected to undue pressure and harassment in the exercise of their legitimate activities for the protection and promotion of human rights.

You can be assured of our support in the matter; the case of Mrs. Tankacheva has been raised by both the EU Delegation in Minsk as well as by EU headquarters in Brussels at different levels with the Belarusian authorities. I understand that in the meantime Mrs. Tankacheva's expulsion has been delayed and hope that a durable solution will eventually be found.

We will keep vigilant in the matter and invite you to keep us updated as the situation evolves. I hope that Lawtrend will be able to pursue its valuable work unabated and already wish you peaceful holidays.

Please convey my greetings to Mrs. Tankacheva.
With best regards,



Gunnar Wiegand