



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



**Mr Andrei Yahorau**  
Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Strasbourg, 15 December 2014

Dear Mr Yahorau,

Thank you for your letter of 18 November 2014 addressed to the Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Nils Muižnieks, requesting support in the case of Ms Elena Tonkacheva.

While the scope of action of the Commissioner for Human Rights in relation to Belarus is limited as his mandate only extends to the 47 member states of the Council of Europe, he is nevertheless closely following the situation of human rights defenders in this country.

Commissioner Muižnieks had the opportunity to meet with Ms Tonkacheva in April 2013 in Strasbourg. As you may know already, he stated on 10 November 2014 via his Twitter account that the expulsion of Ms Tonkacheva was a worrying turn, and that he hoped the authorities would cancel this disproportionate measure.

We would be grateful if you could keep us informed of the developments in the case of Ms Tonkacheva.

Yours sincerely,

Isil Gachet  
Director