



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS ĀRLIETU MINISTRS

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

Riga, 26 August 2015

Dear Federica,

*In the light of the recent positive developments in Belarus, I would like to invite you to consider the ways of how to seize this emerging opportunity.*

*While not being naive and not hoping for swift changes in the Belarus society, I believe that we need to have an in-depth discussion on how to better engage with Belarus after the release of political prisoners in order to sustain this emerging positive dynamism. The new reality allows the EU to send positive response to the Belarus leadership by adjusting existing regime of sanctions. In this light, we shall encourage peaceful and relatively fair conduct of the forthcoming presidential elections.*

*Moreover, we shall explore possibilities for further political dialogue, economic cooperation and reforms focused assistance. This should be carried out keeping in mind that Belarus is a part of the Eurasian integration area and our usual Eurocentric approach could not be applied. Furthermore, we could contemplate how an enhanced engagement with Belarus might strengthen the Eastern Partnership as a distinct European policy.*

*In my view, the upcoming Gymnich meeting on 4 – 5 September 2015 could be a good occasion to discuss the possible EU and member states engagement towards Belarus.*

*Yours sincerely,*

  
Edgars Rinkēvičs

*Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Latvia*

**H.E. Ms Federica Mogherini  
High Representative of the Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**