

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BELARUS

DENMARK

- What steps has Belarus taken to ensure that those individuals sentenced to death are allowed an adequate appeals procedure, and thereby uphold Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- What steps has Belarus taken to condemn the use of torture and other ill-treatment and to ensure prompt, impartial and comprehensive investigations of all complaints of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment, as well as when there are reasonable grounds to believe that torture or other ill-treatment has occurred even if no complaint was made.
- Furthermore Denmark would like to know if any means have been taken in order to ensure that no statements obtained as a result of torture or other ill-treatment are used as evidence in trial proceedings, except as evidence against a person accused of torture or other ill-treatment.
- Also, Denmark would very much appreciate an indication as to whether Belarus is considering adhering to OPCAT in the near future?
- How does Belarus intend to ensure respect for the human rights of religious believers and their right to carry out their peaceful activities free from harassment in the future?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 67 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation with special procedures mandate holders and despite several still pending requests by special rapporteurs to visit Belarus - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

SLOVENIA

- What are the activities of the parliamentary commission that is said to be investigating the possibility of introducing a moratorium on the death penalty and what are the prospects to abolish the capital punishment or to introduce a moratorium?
- Furthermore we would like to ask what measures does the Government of Belarus intend to adopt in order to eliminate the control on media and to ensure free political environment, especially in the run-up to the presidential elections?

SWITZERLAND

- How is the Government of Belarus planning to assure the respect for international human rights law, in particular its obligations towards the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights? Is the Government of Belarus intending to extend an open invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council? Furthermore, are the authorities intending to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture?
- Is the Government of Belarus intending to declare a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it in future?
- Can Belarus provide information about the presumed executions of two condemned – Misters Andrei Zhuk and Vasily Yuzepchuk – which have supposedly taken place in March?
- With regard to those two cases, how is the Government of Belarus treating the requests by family members regarding confirmation of those executions and return of the bodies to their families?
- What are the measures the Government of Belarus is planning on putting in practice in order to ensure the freedom of expression and of association for all its citizens, including media representatives and human rights defenders?
- In particular, is Belarus considering to allow and to facilitate the registration procedures of non-governmental organisations and political opposition parties?
