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# Protecting Regional Security through Sanctions against Belarus

Hybrid workshop  
May 21, 2026

Mykolas Romeris  
University  
Vilnius

Vilnius time

# Programme

**8:30-9:00** **OPENING  
&REGISTRATION**

**9:00-10:40** **PANEL 1**

**SANCTIONS AGAINST BELARUS:  
STATUS QUO, LOCAL PERCEPTION,  
EFFECT ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Moderator: Dr. Peter Van Elsuwege,  
MINOS, Ghent University (Belgium)

9:05-9:20 Dr. Ekaterina Deikalo, Belarusian Helsinki  
Committee in exile (Belarus)

**CURRENT POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BELARUS  
AND SANCTIONS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE: GENERAL OVERVIEW**

9:20-9:35 Dr. Anton Moiseienko, Australian National  
University (Australia)

**THE LIMITS OF EU SANCTIONS POLICY**

9:35-9:50 Dr. Tatsiana Chulitskaya, Vilnius University  
(Belarus / Lithuania)

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SANCTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON  
THE LUKASHENKO REGIME, THE POPULATION, AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

9:50-10:05 Dzmitry Kruk, BEROCC – Belarusian  
Economic Research and Outreach Center  
in exile (Belarus), the Krakow University  
of Economics (Poland)

**MACROECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS  
ON THE BELARUSIAN ECONOMY**

10:05-10:20 Ričard Dzikovič, the Ministry of Justice  
of the Republic of Lithuania (Lithuania)

**LITHUANIA'S LEGAL ACTIONS  
AGAINST THE BELARUSIAN REGIME (OR BELARUS)**

10:20-10:40 DISCUSSION

**10:40-10:55** **COFFEE BREAK**

**10:55-12:50** **PANEL 2**

**POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL  
LAW: HYBRID THREATS AND  
SANCTIONS**

Moderator: Dr. Fabian Burkhardt,  
Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast  
European Studies (Germany)

11:00-11:15 Dr. Justinas Žilinskas, Mykolas Romeris  
University (Lithuania)

**PLAYING INNOCENT: HYBRID ACTS AND THE LIMITS OF INTERNA-  
TIONAL LAW. THE CASE OF LUKASHENKO REGIME**

11:15-11:30 Prof. Dr. Peter Van Elsuwege, MINOS,  
Ghent University (Belgium)

**EVOLVING NATURE OF EU SANCTIONS  
AND BELARUS**

11:30-11:45 Dr. Anais Marin, former UN Special  
Rapporteur on Belarus, Associate fellow with  
Chatham House (London, remote)

**REPRESSION WITHOUT BORDERS: BELARUS'  
TRANSNATIONAL ATTACKS ON DISSIDENTS  
AS A HYBRID THREAT TACTIC**

11:45-12:00 Prof. Dr. Giselle Bosse, Maastricht University  
(Netherlands)

**ADDRESSING HYBRID THREATS THROUGH  
SANCTIONS: THE EU'S APPROACH TO BELARUS**

12:00-12:15 Neringa Juodkaitė-Putrimienė, the Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania  
(Lithuania)

**TRENDS OF EU AND LITHUANIAN  
SANCTIONS POLICY AGAINST BELARUS**

12:15-12:30 Dr. Fabian Burkhardt, Leibniz Institute for East  
and Southeast European Studies (Germany)

**INDIVIDUAL SANCTIONS, ELITES, AND THE STABILITY  
OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES**

12:30-12:50 Discussion

Vilnius time

# Programme

## 12:50-13:40 LUNCH BREAK

## 13:40-15:10 PANEL 3

### LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RESPECT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST BELARUS

Moderator: Dr. Loreta Šaltinytė,  
Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)

13:45-14:00 Dr. Victoria Leukavets,  
Södertörn University (Sweden)

BELARUS'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING RUSSIA'S  
AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

14:00-14:15 Maryia Zharylouskaya, PhD candidate,  
Mykolas Romeris University  
(Belarus / Lithuania)

EU SANCTIONS AGAINST BELARUS AS ENFORCEMENT  
OF JUS COGENS NORMS: BETWEEN EU LAW  
AND PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

14:15-14:30 Yuliya Miadzvetskaya, doctoral researcher,  
the Institute for European Studies  
at the Université libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

LITIGATING EU RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AGAINST BELARUS  
BEFORE THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

14:30-14:45 Yury Ravavoi, Rabochy Rukh, NGO in exile  
(Belarus)

SANCTIONS CIRCUMVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
GAPS: EVIDENCE FROM BELARUS

14:45-15:00 Dr. Celia Challet, MINOS, Ghent University,  
Université Catholique de Lille (Belgium, France)

EU'S RESPONSE TO THE SANCTIONS'S CIRCUMVENTION

15:00-15:15 Dr. Iryna Bogdanova, Kiel University (Germany)

COMPARISON OF THE EU AND US  
SANCTIONS REGIMES: LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15:15-15:30 Discussion

## 15:30-15:45 COFFEE BREAK

## 15:45-17:00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Moderator: Maryia Zharylouskaya,  
Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)

15:50-16:05 Beāte Livdanska, Latvian Institute  
of International Affairs (Latvia)

LATVIA AND THE BALTIC STATES: DRIVING A HARDER LINE  
IN EU POLICY TOWARDS BELARUS

16:05-16:20 Dr. Ryhor Nizhnikau, Finnish Institute  
of International Affairs (Finland)

SAVING BELARUS OR COLONEL LUKASHENKA? A RISE  
OF ANTI-SANCTION COALITION AND WHY THE EU CANNOT  
ABANDON ITS APPROACH TOWARDS BELARUS

16:20-16:35 Raminta Dereskevičiute,  
McDermott Will & Emery

16:35-17:00 Discussion

# Panelists



**RIČARD DZIKOVIČ**  
the Ministry of Justice  
of the Republic of Lithuania

Ričard is currently heading a group of legal representation at the theMinistry of Justice of Lithuania. During his 11 years work experience at the Ministry of Justice, he has worked with issues concerning policy formation, legislation, legal analysis, international relations and legal representation. He has been a lecturer at Mykolas Romeris University since 2018. Ričard has been awarded the Order of the President of the Republic For merits to Lithuania for his active professional work, initiatives and service, which have made a significant contribution to the development of the national legal system of Lithuania. In 2022 he has drafted the reference of Lithuania to the International Criminal Court in respect of the situation in Ukraine and a reference in respect of Belarus in 2024. He represents Lithuania before the International Court of Justice in the case of Ukraine v Russia regarding liability for unlawful military aggression. He has also initiated the case of Lithuania v Belarus regarding instrumentalization of migration and the protection of state borders.



**MS NERINGA JUODKAITĖ-PUTRIMIENĖ**  
Director for Sanctions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Neringa Juodkaitė-Putrimienė is Director for Sanctions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania. She previously served as Deputy Director of the UN, International Organisations and Human Rights Department at the MFA and as Minister Counsellor and Deputy Representative at the EU Political and Security Committee within the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU. Her professional experience includes extensive work on international law, human rights, EU foreign policy, OSCE affairs, and multilateral diplomacy, including postings to the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and Lithuania's EU representation.



**DR. TATSIANA CHULITSKAYA**  
Vilnius University (Belarus / Lithuania)

Dr. Tatsiana Chulitskaya is a senior researcher at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University where she is heading a research group on Belarus. Since 2011 up till present, Tatsiana cooperates with the exiled Belarusian think tank SYMPA/ BIPART. Her research interests include authoritarian regimes, Belarusian studies, good governance and public administration, civil society, and European neighbourhood policy.



**DR. ANTON MOISEIENKO**  
Australian National University (Australia)

Dr. Anton Moiseienko is an Associate Professor of Law and Research Director at the Australian National University Law School. His main areas of expertise are financial crime, including money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, and the legal and policy aspects of economic sanctions. He is the author of *Doing Business with Criminals*, a wide-ranging account of the objectives and history of financial crime rules published by Cambridge University Press in 2025, and *Corruption and Targeted Sanctions*, a monograph on the legal and policy implications of 'Magnitsky' sanctions published by Brill in 2019. He has also co-edited four books on transnational crime, including the 35-chapter-long *Research Handbook on Transnational Crime*.

Anton's publications have appeared in leading journals, including the *Modern Law Review*, *American Journal of International Law*, *Criminal Law Review*, *European Journal of International Law*, *German Law Journal*, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* and *Leiden Journal of International Law*.



**DR. CELIA CHALLET**  
MINOS, Ghent University, Université Catholique de Lille (Belgium, France)

Celia Challet is an Assistant Professor of Law at the Université Catholique de Lille, in the European School of Political Science. Her research focuses on European Union institutional law and EU external relations law. She has published on the sanctions adopted by the European Union in the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and their judicial review by the Court of Justice of the European Union. She is also an active member of the Multidisciplinary International Network on Sanctions (MINOS), a research and teaching network dedicated to the multidisciplinary study of international sanctions.



**DR. JUSTINAS ŽILINSKAS**

Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)

Justinas Žilinskas currently serves as professor at the Institute of International and EU Law at Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius where he teaches the following courses: International Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law, Introduction to Comparative Law and Basic of Scientific Research. Justinas Žilinskas is one of the most known international law specialists in Lithuania, with expertise in international humanitarian law and international criminal law. He has published numerous articles and monograph on genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and related human rights issues, he is an author of the textbook on International Humanitarian Law. He has been commissioned a number of times by the Government of Lithuania to assist with the cases before the European Court of Human Rights, called as an expert on international and human rights law by the national courts in important cases, related with international crimes. He served for two terms at the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission.



**DZMITRY KRUK**

Dzmityry Kruk, BEROC – Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center in exile (Belarus), the Krakow University of Economics (Poland)

Dzmityry Kruk is a Senior Researcher at the BEROC Research Center and Director of BISEB (BEROC-IPM School of Economics and Business) at EHU. He holds a BA in Economics (2002) and an MA in Banking and Finance (2004) from the Belarusian State University. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Krakow University of Economics. His research interests include economic growth and finance, monetary economics, and macroeconomic modelling. He has extensive expertise on the Belarusian economy.



**PROF. DR. GISELLE BOSSE**

Prof. Dr. Giselle Bosse, Maastricht University (Netherland)

Prof. Giselle Bosse is a Full Professor and Personal Chair in EU Democracy Support, and Jean Monnet Chair in EU International Relations at Maastricht University. She is also associate fellow at the European Democracy Hub in Brussels. Her research focuses on EU foreign policy, democracy promotion, and the European Union's engagement with the Eastern Partnership countries, with a particular emphasis on Belarus. Her work examines the effectiveness and normative foundations of EU external action, including sanctions policy, human rights, resilience, and support for civil society in authoritarian contexts. She has led and contributed to several international research projects on EU-Eastern neighbourhood relations and has extensive experience in policy-oriented research. Prof. Dr. Bosse has widely published on EU-Belarus relations, EU democracy promotion, and the EU's response to crises in its neighbourhood. Her work has appeared in leading academic journals, including Journal of Common Market Studies, Geopolitics, and Democratization.



**DR. EKATERINA DEIKALO**

Ekaterina Deikalo, PhD, International law and human rights expert.

She headed the Department of International Law at Belarusian State University (2014-2020), and was forced to resign in 2021 due to political reasons. Currently, she is an expert of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee - one of the oldest Belarusian human rights NGOs. She also engages in independent expert work, including for the ODIHR/OSCE and the Council of Europe.



**YULIYA MIADZVETSKAYA**

Doctoral researcher, the Institute for European Studies at the Université libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

Yuliya Miadzvetskaya is a doctoral researcher at the Centre for European Law since October 2023, and affiliated with the Institute for European Studies at the Université libre de Bruxelles.

Prior to this, she worked at the University of Tübingen, the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, the College of Europe, and the legal service of the European Parliament. Yuliya holds an LL.M. in European Law from the College of Europe and master's degrees in Law from the Universities of Montesquieu Bordeaux IV and Toulouse Capitole. Her research interests are centred on the evolution of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in a tense geopolitical context.



**DR. FABIAN BURKHARDT**

Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Germany)

Dr. Fabian Burkhardt is a senior researcher in the Department of Politics at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, Germany. A political scientist, he is interested in comparative authoritarianism and studies the domestic governance and transnational influence—such as propaganda and transnational repression—of autocracies. His regional focus is on Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.



**DR. IRYNA BOGDANOVA**

Kiel University (Germany)

Dr Iryna Bogdanova is a Senior Researcher and Lecturer at the Walther Schücking Institute for International Law in Kiel. She is also Managing Editor of the German Yearbook of International Law. Prior to this, Dr Bogdanova was a postdoctoral researcher at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern, and at the University of Luxembourg, where she served as the principal investigator of the EU-funded KLEPTOTRACE project. Over the years, Iryna has steadily published contributions analysing various aspects of economic statecraft and summarizing the most recent developments in this field. Her book *Unilateral Sanctions in International Law and the Enforcement of Human Rights* (Brill 2022) explores the legality of unilateral economic sanctions under international law. Her research interests include collective and unilateral economic sanctions, their effectiveness and legality, international trade law and policy, regulation of international investments.



**ANAÏS MARIN**

former UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus, European Union Institute for Security Studies (France/ Poland)

Dr Anaïs Marin is a French political scientist with expertise in post-Soviet Eurasia, border studies, and the human dimension of European security. From 2018 to 2024 she held the mandate of UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus. A non-resident associate fellow with Chatham House (London), she is currently based in Warsaw and works as a freelance consultant, investigating notably sanctions-circumvention. In her academic work she studied the foreign policy of authoritarian regimes (“dictadplomacy”), including as a Marie Curie Fellow (Collegium Civitas, Warsaw, 2015-2017), then with a grant from the Polish National Centre for Science (University of Warsaw, 2019-2022), and served as an associate expert on Russian FIMI in an EU-funded project on “Protecting European values” led by the College of Eastern Europe (KEW, Wrocław, 2022-2025). She also published extensively for various European think tanks.



**DR. RYHOR NIZHNIKAU,**

Finnish Institute of International Affairs (Finland)

Dr. Ryhor Nizhnikau is a Senior Research Fellow in Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. He works on Russia’s and the EU’s policies towards Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, and studies the institutional transformations and political developments in these countries. He received his PhD in Political Science from Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu. Dr. Nizhnikau was a visiting fellow at the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the George Washington University, and a visiting lecturer at the Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University. His publications include *EU-Induced Change in Post-Soviet Space: Promoting Reforms in Moldova and Ukraine* (Routledge, 2019), and *Russian policy towards Belarus after 2020: At a turning point?* (Lexington Books, 2023), co-edited with Arkady Moshes.



**DR. VICTORIA LEUKAVETS**

Södertörn University (Sweden)

Dr. Victoria Leukavets is a post-doctoral researcher at the Center for Baltic and Eastern European Studies (CBEES) and Editor-in-Chief of the Belarus Voices book series at Ibidem Press. Her research focuses on Belarus’s domestic and foreign policy within the broader context of regional security, including cooperation between authoritarian states and the political economy of international sanctions.

Victoria holds a PhD from Bremen International Graduate School of Social Science, where she was a Marie Curie Fellow. She has held fellowships at leading policy and research institutions, including the Harvard Davis Center, the European Parliament, the Wilson Center, and the UK Parliament. Her work engages with key policy debates on European and transatlantic security, including at NATO Public Forum and the Munich Security Conference. She has published in leading academic journals including *Europe-Asia Studies*, *East European Politics*, and *New Perspectives*.



**BEĀTE LIVDANSKA**

Latvian Institute of International Affairs (Latvia)

Beate Livdanska is a researcher at Latvian Institute of International Affairs. She currently is pursuing her Ph.D. in political science at Rīga Stradiņš University. Previously she has been a Researcher at the Centre for East European Policy Studies (CEEPS) based in Riga. She specializes in the foreign and domestic policy of Belarus. The main research focus includes analysis of relations between Belarus and the Baltic States, relations between Belarus and the European Union and relations between Belarus and Russia.



**PROF. DR. PETER VAN ELSUWEGE**

MINOS, Ghent University (Belgium)

Peter Van Elsuwege is Professor of EU law and Jean Monnet Chair at Ghent University, where he is co-director of the Ghent European Law Institute (GELI). He is also visiting professor at the College of Europe and board member of the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) at the Asser Institute in The Hague. His research activities essentially focus on the law of EU external relations and EU citizenship. Specific attention is devoted to the legal framework of the relations between the European Union and its East European neighbours. He published extensively in leading law journals such as Common Market Law Review, European Law Review, European Constitutional Law Review and others. Since 2024, he coordinates the Multidisciplinary International Network on Sanctions (MINOS).



**YURY RAVAVOI,**

Rabochy Rukh, NGO in exile (Belarus)

Yury Ravavoi is a specialist in the international department of the Polish trade union Solidarność, co-founder of the Rabochy Ruch foundation, and former chair of the strike committee at Grodno Azot during the 2020 protests in Belarus. He holds a degree in chemical engineering and has experience in trade union work in Belarus and Poland. His work focuses on international solidarity, labour rights in Eastern Europe, and the impact of political and economic developments on workers in Eastern Europe. Through Rabochy Ruch, he is involved in monitoring sanctions imposed on Belarus because of labour rights violations. The organization has contributed to investigations into sanctions evasion schemes, corruption networks in Belarus, and financial mechanisms supporting the Belarusian regime.



**MARYIA ZHARYLOUSKAYA**

PhD candidate, Mykolas Romeris University (Belarus / Lithuania)

Maryia Zharylouskaya is a PhD candidate at Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania). Her PhD research focuses on the issues of State responsibility for jus cogens norms violations, third States' reactions under regime of aggravated State responsibility and erga omnes obligations, legal basis for freezing and confiscation of financial assets of a responsible State and affiliated persons. Her broader areas of research are State and individual criminal responsibility, sanctions, legal aspects of international relations with Russia, Belarus and post-Soviet region. From 2011 to 2022, she practiced business law in Belarus. Since 2020, she has worked as a human rights lawyer, focusing on labour rights violations in Belarus through engagement with the UN, the ILO, and other international legal mechanisms. She also teaches International Criminal Law and Labour Law at European Humanities University.