

Mr. Alexander Lukaschenko  
President of the Republic of Belarus  
Palace of Independence  
Minsk/Belarus

2020-08-04

**Open Letter: Demand for immediate release of Vitaly Shklyarov**

Mister President,

As we learn from the media, on July 29 our colleague, professional political consultant Vitaly Shklyarov was captured on the street and detained in a prison in Minsk.

The EAPC, the European Association of Political Consultants, hereby strongly protests against this arbitrary treatment of our colleague and demands his immediate release.

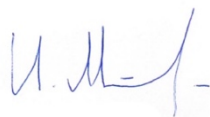
Vitaly Shklyarov has been a member of the EAPC for many years and is considered to be extremely reputable in the entire industry and is known far beyond the borders for his respectful work. He worked for Angela Merkel as well as for the Barak Obama campaign as well as many other election campaigns in different countries.

The detention of a political consultant is unworthy of the Belarusian Republic, is unprecedented for elections in Europe and ridicules all democratic principles. We, the members of the EAPC and thus colleagues of Vitaly Shklyarov, can only hope that this action is a misunderstanding and that Vitaly Shklyarov will be released as soon as possible.

As free people of liberal community with democrats values, we cannot tolerate such actions in any way. We also urge all democratic forces around Europe to work for the release of our colleague.

Sincerely yours

The European Association of Political Consultants



Igor Mintusov, President

**eapc**



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