

Outcome document – Discussion with Belarusian National Youth Council

RADA

14th meeting of the EESC Youth Group on 13 July 2026

Key Recommendations

The EESC Youth Group and the Belarusian National Youth Council RADA recommend the following actions:

1. Safeguard access for Belarusian youth to European youth programmes and initiatives.
2. Support Belarusian youth in visa procurement.
3. Recognise youth as a distinct sector.
4. Treat RADA as a key partner for Belarusian youth.
5. Integrate Belarusian youth perspectives into relevant EESC work.

Explanations

Safeguard Belarusian participation in European youth programmes

- Belarusian young people need continued access to Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps as important channels for learning, mobility and connection with Europe.
- Available funding should cover the real travel and participation costs so that opportunities remain accessible in practice, not only in principle.
- Belarusian youth perspectives should be included in relevant EU youth initiatives, including EU4Youth.

Support Belarusian youth in visa procurement

- Belarusian youth currently face major delays in obtaining visas to Europe, in some cases waiting almost two years. This prevents them from accessing opportunities to work, study and travel, further isolating them from the rest of Europe.
- The EU needs to examine how to resolve these administrative delays in order to ensure Belarusian youth can receive their visa in a timely manner.

Recognise youth as a distinct sector

- Youth should be explicitly recognised as a distinct sector in relevant cooperation frameworks and policy discussions.
- Structured dialogue with independent Belarusian youth organisations can help ensure that Belarusian youth perspectives are reflected in EU-level discussions and activities.

Treat RADA as a key partner for Belarusian youth

- The Belarusian National Youth Council (RADA) is home to 44 youth organisations across Belarus and as a result has a vast amount of up-to-date knowledge about issues facing its young people.

- It should be treated as a key partner in EU level discussions as it is best placed to represent and advocate for the interests of Belarusian youth.

Integrate Belarusian youth perspectives into relevant EESC work

- Consider how Belarusian youth perspectives can be reflected in EESC opinions and related policy work.
- Promote continued engagement with independent Belarusian youth representatives.

Participants

A debate was held during the 14th EESC Youth Group meeting on 13 July 2026. It was attended by EESC Youth Group members and Yuliya Ralko, the International Secretary of the Belarusian National Youth Council RADA. The discussion focused on the situation of young people and youth organisations in Belarus.