

MSC Core Group Meeting Minsk

October 31 – November 1, 2018

Press Release

24/10/2018

As tensions between East and West continue to rise, the Munich Security Conference (MSC) sees the imperative to maintain open channels of communication, foster mutual understanding and tend to dependable personal networks at the highest political levels. Against this background, the MSC has decided to hold its next Core Group Meeting in Minsk.

Organized in partnership with the **Government of Belarus**, this meeting is meant to offer a neutral platform for political debate, constructive exchange and, possibly, the revival of dormant negotiation processes. Given the various sanction regimes currently in place as well as a history of serving as location for international efforts to solve conflicts and crises in the greater region, Minsk offers the realistic chance to assemble prominent participants at the highest level from all sides at a crucial time. All discussion sessions during the meeting will be **held in English and Chatham House Rule** will apply.

Please find the **preliminary agenda** as well as details on the **press accreditation** from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus attached. Documents should be submitted **no later than October 22, 2018**.

Around **70 key leaders** will meet for the discussions amongst others on the **Minsk Process, East-West-Relations and Regional Conflicts, and the Economic Order in Eastern Europe**.

Confirmed participants include several heads of state and government, such as **Alexander Lukashenko** (President of the Republic of Belarus), **Boyko Borissov** (Prime Minister of Bulgaria), **Armen Sarkissian** (President of the Republic of Armenia), and **Pavel Filip** (Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova). In addition, among others, the **foreign ministers** of Macedonia, Mongolia, Poland, and Slovakia will join the discussion. Moreover, several high-level representatives of international organizations will also participate. Among them are **Thomas Greminger** (OSCE Secretary General), **Johannes Hahn** (EU Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations), **Arnd Freiherr Freytag von Loringhoven** (NATO Assistant Secretary General for Intelligence and Security), and **Lassina Zerbo** (Executive Secretary of The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization).

The MSC has been holding Core Group Meetings in key capitals around the world for many years, intending to give a small, exclusive group of high-ranking participants an opportunity to discuss key issues of international security policy in an intimate off-the-record setting. Previous Core Group Meetings have taken place in Moscow, Beijing, Doha, New Delhi, Vienna, Tehran, Addis Ababa and Washington, DC.

The MSC Core Group Meeting in Minsk will start with a welcome lunch at 12.00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31, and will finish with a discussion session on regional conflicts on Thursday, November 1, at 12.30 p.m. An official dinner on the evening of October 31 will be held on behalf of the President of Belarus.

Please check our homepage for more information:

<https://www.securityconference.de/en/news/article/msc-core-group-meeting-2018-to-be-held-in-minsk/>

If you are interested in covering the meeting or have any further questions please contact us at:

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Best wishes,

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