

ESIB - The National Unions of Students in Europe

20, rue de la Sablonnière
1000 Brussels
Belgium
T : +32-2-502 23 62
F : +32-2-511 87 06
E : secretariat@esib.org



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To whom it may concern,

ESIB - the National Unions of Students in Europe is the umbrella organisation of 44 national unions of students from 34 countries and through these members represent over 10 million students. The aim of ESIB is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at a European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Council of Europe and UNESCO.

In France, Reims, 11-13 November ESIB held its General Assembly where 7 members of the Executive Committee 2006 were elected. One of the elected students is Ms Taciana Khoma from Belarus. Taciana is an excellent student at the Belarus State Economic University (www.bseu.by).

The Rector of the University, Mr Vladimir Nikolaevich Shimov, almost immediately after Ms. Khoma was elected to this European-wide organisation, has treated to expel her. This follows a history of action taken against Ms. Khoma and the Belarusian student movement to frustrate and constrain their legitimate activities.

ESIB strongly condemns the actions taken by the Belarus State Economic University, as they are an unacceptable violation of student and human rights [with special reference to articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human right] . ESIB will be sending a letter to the Rector of the BSEU to ask for the stopping of the actions against Ms Khoma, and to allow her to continue her studies at the BSEU without any further harassment from the management of the University.

On behalf of Taciana and ESIB as an organisation I ask you to contact the Rector of the University by fax: +375 17 249 11 07, +375 17 2097807, +375 17 209 78 01 and +375 17 249-11-07/209-78-01 to encourage him to resolve this issue in a positive manner and to preserve the rights of students and especially of Ms. Khoma.

Best regards,

Vanja Ivosević
Chairperson of ESIB – The National Unions of Student in Europe

