

ESIB - The National Unions of Students in Europe

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To whom it may concern,

ESIB - the National Unions of Students in Europe is the umbrella organisation of 45 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, has today expelled Ms Taciana Khoma from the university. The reason for expulsion is that Ms Taciana Khoma has not reported her travel to the ESIBs meeting in France. ESIB strongly believes that this is a violation of human right to freely move and travel, as well as that this action has been taken for political reasons and the involvement of Taciana in European student organisation. She is also forced to leave the dormitory within hours of being expelled from the University.

Ms Khoma will petition towards the Ministry and try through legitimate, legal action annul the decision.

We ask you to take concrete action towards the Belarus State Economic University by stopping any cooperation you might have and to react towards Mr Vladimir Nikolaevich Shimov by asking him to withdraw the decision and ensure proper study environment for Ms Khoma.

Best Regards,

Vanja Ivošević
Chairperson of ESIB – The National Unions of Students in Europe

