

Professor Vladimir Nikolaevich Shimov,  
Rector Belarus State Economic University  
Minsk

Fax: 375 17 249 11 07

Brussels, 25 November 2005

Subject: Protection of student rights and freedom

Dear Professor Shimov

I am writing to you on behalf of the 750 individual and collective members of EUA to express grave concern at information received regarding Ms Taciana Khoma, a student at your university. EUA has been informed that Ms Khoma, having been elected on to the Executive Committee of ESIB - the National Unions of Students in Europe – has been threatened with expulsion from the university as a result of her activities on behalf of national and European students.

As a member university of EUA, we trust that the Belarus State Economic University is committed to the fundamental values and principles of the association, which are enshrined in the 1988 Magna Charta Universitatum. This includes the duty of each university to “ensure that its students' freedoms are safeguarded”.

I hope that you will be able to reassure Ms Khoma of your institution's support to continue her studies at the university, and to participate fully as a student representative at the university, at national level and within ESIB. EUA also looks forward to cooperation with Ms Khoma as a representative of ESIB and therefore a key partner in the development of European higher education.

I would also like to assure you that EUA members around Europe will support you in pursuing our common goals, and upholding our common values, and we therefore look forward to a positive outcome to this situation.



Georg Winckler  
President EUA  
Rector, University of Vienna