

Russia and Eurasia Programme

Is Anything Changing in Belarus?

DRAFT PROGRAMME
25 November 2019, 9:30-13:00
Chatham House

09:00-09:30 *Arrival and coffee*

09:30 – 10:30 Session 1: Belarus Five Years Ago and Now: Different Dictatorships?

- Recent developments
- How, if at all, have Belarusian political elites changed?
- Has Belarus improved its human rights record?
- How is the social contract between people and the authorities changing?

Speakers:

Ryhor Astapenia, Robert Bosch Stiftung Academy Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

Denis Krivosheev, Head of Research, Deputy Regional Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Amnesty International

Chair: James Nixey, Head, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

10:30 – 11:30 Session 2: Does Belarus Really Have a New Foreign Policy or It Is What Belarus Wants Us to Think?

- Are recent changes fundamental and long-lasting?
- Is the Belarus-Russia union about to integrate fully... or disintegrate?
- Is Belarus in any sense a model for its neighbours?
- What is the future of Belarus-West relations?

Speakers:

Yarik Kryvoi, Editor, Journal of Belarusian Studies; Senior Research Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

Andrew Wilson, Professor of Ukrainian Studies, UCL SSEES

Chair: Lubica Pollakova, Senior Programme Manager, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

11:30 – 12:00 *Coffee Break*

12:00 – 13:00 Session 3: What Are We Missing? Belarusian Black Swans and ‘Grey Rhinos’

- What can change the trajectory of Belarus?
- Easy- and hard-to-predict high-impact possibilities

All participants (open discussion)

Chair: Keir Giles, Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

This event is held under the Chatham House Rule