



**ENEMO expresses its support of *Partnership* activists and their families and calls on the Belarus authorities to immediately release the detainees**

On February 2, 2006 in Minsk, Belarus, the KGB representatives detained the head of the public initiative NGO *Partnership* Mikalai Astreika, members of the initiative Enira Branitskaia and Tsimafei Dranchuk, and the public activist Aliaksandr Shalaika.

They were charged with acting on behalf of an unregistered organization. The activists have been kept in Belarusian prisons and their flats have been searched, as well as the flats of dozens other *Partnership* members. The detainees have not been able to meet with their relatives for a long time.

European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations - ENEMO, which unites 19 organizations from the countries of Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, considers such actions violent and oppressive for the civil society of Belarus.

ENEMO also consider oppressions against public activists absolutely impermissible. This disgraceful fact once again proves that the officials in Minsk do not follow the international agreements, as well as the provisions of its Constitution.

Therefore, ENEMO expresses its support of *Partnership* activists and their families and calls on the Belarusian authorities to cease criminal cases against them and immediately release the detainees.

ENEMO, in its turn, calls on the international organizations and the countries that host ENEMO members to address the Belarusian government with a concern over the state of human rights in Belarus, and a demand to immediately release the public activists.

Organizations-members of ENEMO are united on the principles of respect for the international standards in the field of freedom of associations; they also contribute to the development of democracy and human rights principles in their countries. The public initiative *Partnership* is also an ENEMO member.