



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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## **Council eases diplomatic contacts between EU and Belarus**

In order to facilitate diplomatic contacts between the EU and Belarus, the Council today suspended the EU travel ban on Vladimir Makey, Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr Makey will remain on the list of persons subject to EU restrictive measures, but the visa ban will not be applied to him.

This decision does not reflect any change in the EU's policy towards Belarus. The EU maintains its policy of critical engagement with Belarus, including its policy of sanctions, with a view to furthering the respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles in Belarus.

The Council will revert to this issue at the next annual review of the EU restrictive measures against Belarus in October and decide whether to extend the suspension.

The legal act adopted today will be published in tomorrow's edition of the EU Official Journal and will take effect then.

For details on the EU's policy of critical engagement with Belarus and its restrictive measures, see [Council conclusions](#) of 15 October 2012 and [factsheet European Union and Belarus](#).

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**P R E S S**

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