

ACCREDITATION OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

A foreign journalist intending to visit Belarus for professional purposes must obtain the accreditation at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry. Article 35 (4) of the Law on Mass Media prohibits the activities of foreign journalists in Belarus without such accreditation.

Accreditation for the European Games has completed on 28 February 2019. Journalists who did not use it can obtain accreditation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on general grounds.

Belarus has been ranked **153th** out in 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders for 2018



Recommendations of the Belarusian Association of Journalists to foreign journalists

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW COMING TO THE EUROPEAN GAMES IN BELARUS

MINSK 2019

2nd EUROPEAN GAMES

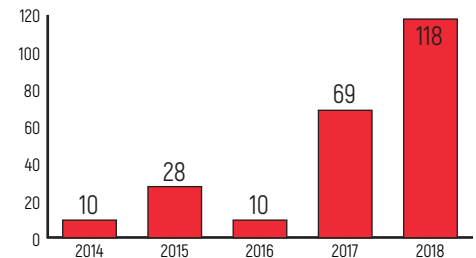
CONTACTS OF THE BELARUSIAN ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS:
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ONLINE FORM FOR TEMPORARY ACCREDITATION:

<http://mfa.gov.by/en/acreditform/>

Under Article 22.9 of the Belarusian Code of Administrative Offences the courts can judge journalistic activities without an accreditation as 'illegal production and/or distribution of media content.' The practice to fine Belarusian freelance journalists who do not have accreditation and contribute to foreign media outlets (mainly to the TV channel Belsat registered in Poland) is widespread. In 2018, 118 fines were imposed on these journalists (more than 43,000 euros in total).

Fines to Journalists for Violating Article 22.9 of the Administrative Code



RULES OF CONDUCT WHILE COVERING PUBLIC EVENTS:

- A foreign journalist covering any public event (including sporting, entertainment, religious events or protests) must have got an ID and a document confirming his or her accreditation as a foreign journalist in the Republic of Belarus.
- In addition, he or she must have something with a clearly visible inscription 'PRESS.'

SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE EUROPEAN GAMES ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 191

- From 17 June 17 to 2 July 2019, the use of drone aircrafts and model airplanes (excepting state-owned ones) will be prohibited at sports facilities, other sports venues, locations of hotels which host participants of the European Games, and fan zones. In case of violation of this prohibition, drone aircrafts and model airplanes will be seized up to 2 July 2019.
- Hotel security guards are allowed to conduct personal searches, inspections of belongings and documents, as well as inspections of vehicles.
- During the European Games, the authorities will block access to websites if they contain calls for mass riots, for participation in public events violating the law, for extremist activities, for other actions that could disorganize the European Games.

SAFE COMMUNICATION

- According to the report of Amnesty International (2016), the Belarusian authorities can undertake wide-ranging surveillance with little or no justification. They use the SORM system, which allows the authorities direct, remote-control access to all user communications and associated data. The right to privacy is also at risk because the law allows broad powers of physical surveillance, including audio monitoring of people or premises, and because personal data may be compromised when computers, mobile phones, or other devices are confiscated by the authorities. In this regard, it is recommended to use safe messengers for communication and to protect data carriers.