

ПАСОЛЬСТВА РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ  
У ЗЛУЧАНЫМ КАРАЛЕЎСТВЕ  
ВЯЛКАБРЫТАНІІ І ПАЎНОЧНАЙ  
ІРЛАНДЫІ



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND

6, Kensington Court, London, W8 5DL, tel. 020 7937 3288, fax. 020 7361 0005, e-mail: uk@belembassy.org

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Financial Times

The Times

The Daily Telegraph

The Guardian

The Independent

### Open letter

17 May 2006

**Re: “EU to freeze assets of Belarus leader after flawed poll” by Fidelius Schmid and Daniel Dombey, “Financial Times”, 15 May 2006**

Sir, Mr. Schmid and Mr. Dombey have picked an amazing subject for their article (“EU to freeze assets of Belarus leader after flawed poll”, “FT” of 15 May 2006) – an intention of the European Union to freeze the assets of the President of Belarus Mr. Alexander Lukashenko and of more than 30 senior Belarusian officials.

I have to admit my disappointment to learn that journalists from such a high-quality newspaper as yours became involved in the dissemination of another myth about the Belarusian leadership which with some periodicity comes up in the media and certain international bodies. Not only the President of my country has no assets in any foreign bank but he also proposed to the western politicians to take them into their possession if such assets were discovered.

Has the money been found anywhere to be frozen? Or publicity of the intention to freeze the hypothetic assets is just another element in the laborious process aimed at creating an unattractive image of the Belarusian authorities?

It looks to me that certain bodies/officials who create myths about the leadership of Belarus often become hostages of their own creation.

I strongly believe that presenting tales and rumours to the public as real and proven facts cannot be admitted as a normal practice for any democratic and pluralistic society.

Your readers have all the right to expect keeping to the code of journalist ethics from those working for your newspaper. Will not it be better for all if the newspaper observers turn their attention to analysing the problems of, say, internal audit, off-shore zones or corruption scandals in the countries where such myths as “Belarusian president’s assets” are being cooked.

May I express my sincere hope that this address will, at last, find its way to the readers of your newspaper and will not be ignored by you as my previous letters, alas, have been during the three years of my ambassadorship in this country.

Yours

Dr Alyaksei Mazhukhou  
Ambassador