

Press-release

BISS and Our Opinion are launching a joint analytical project

(Minsk, January 21, 2019) The Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (BISS) and the website of the expert community “Our Opinion” are launching a joint analytical project “Blitz-commentaries”.

БЛИЦ-КОММЕНТАРИЙ # 1
19 января, 2019

Belarusian Institute
for Strategic Studies **biss**

НАШЕ МНЕНИЕ
Экспертное сообщество Беларуси



Фото: пресс-служба президента Беларуси

Беларусь – США: прорыва не будет

Полноценная работа посольства расширит возможности для развития отношений между странами. Но само по себе это не обеспечит качественные изменения.

[Андрей Казакевич](#)

A blitz-commentary is a quick (two or three days after an event) expert analysis of a sociopolitical event. The structure of a “blitz” is modeled on the “Analyses” by the [Centre for Eastern Studies](#) in Warsaw and is very simple. It consists of two main parts: *description and commentary*.

10 января американский журнал “Foreign Policy” разместил статью “[Дипломатический прорыв для Вашингтона в последней диктатуре Европы](#)”. Прорыв заключался в том, что Беларусь сняла ограничения на число американских дипломатов в Минске. Об этом 10

In the descriptive part, you can find a brief description of the very event: *what, where and how?*

In the commentative (interpretative) part, you get a competent explanation of what the event means in a wider context. In this part, a qualified expert indicates probable causes (factors) of the event and its possible consequences, reconstructs the intentions of the main actors involved in the event, and assesses their chances of achieving their goals.

Sometimes, in addition to the descriptive and commentary parts, there will also be a historical background sketched: what events preceded this event or what were the analogues of the events in the recent history of the country.

Blitz-commentaries are a type of “economical expertise”. The basic idea is that politicians, activists, diplomats, experts and other interested parties have an opportunity, within 5-10 minutes, to receive reliable information about the event and get acquainted with a competent, refined in the course of internal expert discussions, answer to the question: *What does this event mean?*

Over October — December 2018, BISS published [five pilot blitz-commentaries](#) in Russian, Belarusian and English, and then the teams of BISS and Our Opinion agreed to issue them on a regular basis as a joint analytical product.

The estimated frequency of blitz-commentaries is 2-4 issues per month. "Blitzes" will be published both on the [website of BISS](#) and [that of Our Opinion](#), in html and pdf-versions. Until we find funding for the project, we will probably not be able to deliver English versions regularly, but we are planning to publish in English at least occasionally.

The first blitz-commentary within the joint project concerns the relations between Belarus and the United States and was prepared by the well-known political scientist Andrei Kazakevich. You can read the blitz on [BISS](#) or [Our Opinion website](#).

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Info on BISS

Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (BISS) is a think tank, founded in 2007 by a group of prominent scientists and public figures, with the support of the international organization 'Pact'. Its main mission is to provide an integrated picture of socio-political processes in Belarus on the basis of profound empirical research. In the past, the most emblematic projects of the Institute were: 'Social Contracts', 'National Self-identification of the Contemporary Belarusians', the 'Eurasian Review', and 'Human capital.' At the moment, apart from the joint project of BISS and Our Opinion 'Blitz-commentaries', BISS is planning to launch the research programmes 'Value Transformations' and 'Identity Index', as well as an educational project 'be critical'. BISS website <http://www.belinstitute.eu/en>

Info on Our Opinion

The Our Opinion website is one of the oldest analytical project in Belarus, a media platform that brings together over one hundred independent experts and ten research centres for competent assessments and analysis of politics, economics and social processes. Our Opinion's website www.nmnby.eu

Previous (pilot) blitz-commentaries by BISS:

Форум крытыкі і дыялогу (пра Мінскі форум): 28 лістапада 2018.

The Forum of Criticism and Dialogue (on Minsk Dialogue): November 28, 2018.

CSTO summit in Astana: A mixed picture of cohesion: 16 октября 2018.

Беларусь и Украина: неизбежная любовь: 2 ноября 2018.

Кейс Dzieciuk'ов: белорусская милиция взялась искать экстремизм в интернете: 17 октября 2018.

Севярынец, Кавалькова і светапоглядныя зрухі ў БХД: 9 октября 2018.