

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

Date/Time Stamp:
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2022 SEP 30 PM 4:12

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Atlantic Council

Travel date(s): 08/28/2022-09/03/2022

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate	\$2850.64	\$511.88 Vilnius: \$240.25 Warsaw: \$271.63	\$389.45 Vilnius: \$252.26 Warsaw: \$137.19	\$5.30 - Warsaw Uprising Museum
☒ Actual Amount				

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate	N/A	N/A	N/A	
☐ Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. *See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6).* (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See attachment

9/30/2022
(Date)

Joseph Biegun
(Printed name of traveler)

Joseph Biegun
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/30/2022
(Date)

James R. Kinch
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

Description of all meetings and events attended – Joseph Biegun

Monday, August 29 – Vilnius, Lithuania

4:30-6:30pm – Meeting at Blue/Yellow for Ukraine headquarters

Blue/Yellow is a Lithuania-based NGO that supports Ukraine's armed forces. We discussed the war in Ukraine and the work the NGO does to help Ukrainian soldiers.

7:00-9:00pm – Dinner with Blue/Yellow for Ukraine team

We had dinner with Blue/Yellow's team at Mason Restoranas. We discussed the war in Ukraine and the work the NGO does to help Ukrainian soldiers

Tuesday, August 30 – Vilnius, Lithuania

8:30-9:30 – Meeting with former President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė

We met with Grybauskaitė at the Presidential Palace to discuss her tenure as President, the war in Ukraine, developments in NATO history, and Lithuania's past and present role in the region's issues

10:00-10:40am – Meeting with Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Lithuania, Laima Andrikienė

We met with Andrikienė to discuss foreign policy in Lithuania's parliament, U.S.-Lithuanian relations, our mutual alliances, and current events in the region such as the war in Ukraine.

11:00am-12:00pm – Meeting with Vice-Minister of National Defence of Lithuania Margiris Abukevičius

We met with Abukevičius to discuss Lithuanian national defense, how the U.S. and NATO help with security, and the threats Lithuania faces from Russia and its allies, as well as Lithuania's actions in support of Ukraine.

1:00-2:30pm – Lunch meeting with The Hon. Robert S. Gilchrist, US Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania

Description of all meetings and events attended – Joseph Biegun

Over lunch at the Ambassador's residence, we discussed U.S.-Lithuanian relations, the current political situation in Lithuania's government, and the status of NGOs, civil society and expats based in Lithuania in relation to Russia and Belarus.

3:00-4:00pm – Meeting with members of the Office of the Prime Minister of Lithuania

We met with First Vice-Chancellor Rolandas Kriščiūnas and Head of the International Relations and European Union Group Kestutis Vaškelevičius to discuss the war in Ukraine and the challenges Lithuania is facing both from outside and in the domestic sphere.

4:30-5:10pm – Meeting with Belarusian democratic opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and chief advisers Franak Viačorka and Valery Kavaleuski.

We had a quick meeting with Tsikhanouskaya and her team to discuss the state of the Belarusian opposition and the situation inside Belarus. They also explained to us their recently created cabinet of ministers and the reorganization of the opposition's joint efforts.

5:30-7:30pm – Dinner with Russian opposition politician Vladimir Milov

At dinner with Milov we discussed a number of issues facing the Russian opposition and he shared his in-depth knowledge of the state of politics and life in Russia.

Wednesday, August 31 – Vilnius, Lithuania

8:30-9:30am – Meeting with Chair of National Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Lithuania, Dr. Laurynas Kasčiūnas

Kasčiūnas spoke to us about the state of Lithuania's national defense, threats to their national security, how the U.S. and NATO can help, and his thoughts on the war in Ukraine and how it will tangentially affect Lithuania.

9:35-10:35am – Meeting with Žygimantas Pavilionis, Member of Parliament of Lithuania and member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Pavilionis spoke to us about his concerns for allied resolve, the need for the U.S. and allies to do more to support Ukraine and what is needed to adequately confront Russia.

Description of all meetings and events attended – Joseph Biegun

12:00-1:00pm – Meeting with Kęstutis Budrys, Chief Adviser to the President of Lithuania

Budrys and an advisor spoke about politics of the Russia-Ukraine war in Lithuania, regional issues, and how they are working to confront challenges facing the nation.

1:30-2:30pm – Meet with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mantas Adomėnas and Minister of Foreign Affairs' adviser Laurynas Jonavičius

Adomėnas and Jonavičius spoke to us about their thoughts about the effects of the war in Ukraine on Lithuania and the region, as well as their work on the issues it has brought, including the refugee situation, humanitarian aid, economic policy and security relationships.

3:00-3:45pm - Meeting with Ambassador Petro Beshta, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Lithuania

Amb. Peshta spoke about the effects of the war in Ukraine, the need for greater military and humanitarian support, the hospitality of the Lithuanians toward refugees, the generosity of western allies toward Ukraine, and the need to continue assistance to help Ukraine win the war.

4:15-5:30pm – Panel discussion with Russian opposition journalists

We met with journalists from Russia who told us about their efforts to get information into Russia, carry out investigations despite strong censorship, and what life for a journalist under an oppressive regime with draconian speech laws.

6:00-8:00pm – Dinner with RFE/RL's Vilnius bureau and Hanna Liubakova, Belarusian journalist and nonresident fellow, Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center

The journalists told us about their experience living and working inside Belarus and now in exile in Lithuania, the challenges and threats they face, and the tactics used by the Belarusian regime to stamp out free speech.

Thursday, September 1 – Warsaw, Poland

10:45-11:45am – Breakfast roundtable briefing with Heather Rogers, Acting US Deputy Chief of Mission in the Republic of Poland

Description of all meetings and events attended – Joseph Biegun

Staff from U.S. Embassy Warsaw gave staff a brief on the political situation, the state of U.S.-Polish relations, and the effects of the war in Ukraine

12:30-1:30pm – Meeting with Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland, Ambassador Vasyl Zvarych

Amb. Zvarych spoke about the effects of the war in Ukraine, how the refugee population living in Poland is surviving and what their future looks like. He also described the kind of assistance Ukraine has received from Poland and other allies.

1:45-2:40pm – Lunch at Zapiecek, briefing from Aaron Korewa, Director of the Warsaw Office, Atlantic Council

Korewa briefed staff on how the war in Ukraine has affected how Poland assesses its national security interests, and how that plays into regional dynamics and its relationships with other countries, such as the U.S.

3:00-4:00pm – Meeting with Minister Isabela Antos, Deputy Head of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister

Antos briefed staff on what Poland has done to support Ukraine during the war, what Poland thinks the future may look like, and what they are doing to affect the outcome.

4:45-5:30pm – Meeting with Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Climate and Environment

Guibourgé-Czetwertyński briefed staff on the environmental and energy situation facing Poland. He explained what measures Poland is taking to confront energy shortages and rising prices due to the war in Ukraine.

6:30-8:30pm – Dinner with leaders of Ukrainian civil society

Civil society leaders gave us their perspectives on Russia's war on Ukraine and proposed some ideas and solutions to help the war and humanitarian efforts.

Friday, September 2 – Warsaw Poland

8:30-9:30am – Meeting with Deputy Minister of National Defence Marcin Ociepa

Description of all meetings and events attended – Joseph Biegun

Ociepa and his team briefed us defense issues facing Poland, how they are working to confront them, and how the U.S., NATO and other allies can best help.

9:50-10:50am – Visit Warsaw Uprising Museum

Staff toured the museum, read stories, viewed artifacts, and learned about the history of the Warsaw Uprising.

12:00-12:50pm – Meeting with Mayor of Warsaw Rafał Trzaskowski

Mayor Trzaskowski spoke to staff on a range of issues, including Polish domestic politics, what the city and country are doing to support the massive refugee population, as well as his thoughts on the war and international affairs.

1:00-1:50pm – Meeting with Dariusz Łukowski, Deputy Head of the National Security Bureau

Łukowski briefed staff on Poland's assessment of the war in Ukraine, how it views threats from Russia, and some of the measures they take to ensure their national security.

2:15-3:15pm – Meeting with members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Staff from the foreign ministry gave us a briefing on Poland's priorities for international relations, the actions they've taken to support Ukraine, and how they interface with other European allies and the EU.

3:30-4:10pm – Meeting with Pavel Latushka, head of the Coordination Council for the Transfer of Power in Belarus

Latushka spoke about issues facing Belarus, the opposition movement, the new cabinet, and their plans for the future.

4:30-4:50pm - Private meeting with US Embassy Poland staff

Embassy staff answered the group's questions about various challenges facing the U.S.-Polish relationship and their thoughts on how to confront them.

5:00-6:30pm – Reception at The Hon. Mark Brzezinski's residence

U.S. Ambassador to Poland Brzezinski hosted a reception, where we discussed various issues with embassy staff and guests from the Polish government and civil society.

Description of all meetings and events attended – Joseph Biegun

7:00-9:00pm - Dinner discussion with Amb. John Herbst recapping the main takeaways of the trip

We discussed our thoughts on the trip and takeaways with Amb. Herbst and the Atlantic Council team.

Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics** in SH-220. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Joseph BiegunEmploying Office/Committee: Senate Foreign Relations CommitteePrivate Sponsor(s) (list all): Atlantic CouncilTravel date(s): August 28 - September 3*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*Destination(s): Vilnius, Lithuania and Warsaw, Poland

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

This trip is part of a congressional fellowship focused on Eurasia and its role in foreign policy in congress. The traveler works on the Europe and Eurasia portfolio as a Policy Analyst at the Foreign Relations Committee. The meetings and information gained on this trip will directly benefit the committee's work.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

7/29/2022
(Date)Joseph Biegun
(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, James E. Risch hereby authorize Joseph Biegun
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

7/29/2022
(Date)James E. Risch
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): Atlantic Council
2. Description of the trip: Study trip to Lithuania and Poland to study the regional impact of Russia's war in Ukraine and meet with government officials and members of civil society.
3. Dates of travel: August 28 to September 3, 2022
4. Place of travel: Vilnius, Lithuania and Warsaw, Poland.
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See attached.
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
 - ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
 - OR -
 - ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
 - AND -
 - ☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
 - ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
 - AND -
 - ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

– OR –

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

– OR –

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

The Atlantic Council is the sole sponsor and is organizing, conducting, and funding all aspects

of the trip. The Eurasia Center, as a program within the Atlantic Council, is leading the planning.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

The Atlantic Council promotes leadership and engagement in international affairs. The Atlantic Council's

Eurasia Center aims to enhance transatlantic cooperation and generate awareness about Eurasia.

The purpose of the trip is to educate and increase awareness of the region among congressional staffers.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

The Atlantic Council has previously sponsored several congressional trips. The Atlantic Council's Eurasia

Center specifically sponsored a similar congressional trip to Ukraine from in 2018 and 2019.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

The Atlantic Council regularly hosts events for attendance by the general public and publishes reports

that are freely available to the public. The Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center hosts events for the general

public and publishes reports for the general public specifically on the Eurasia region.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	\$2776	\$542	\$594	

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

The trip is organized with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center selected the location of the trip based on the Center's focus

on Ukraine because of Lithuania's and Poland's support of Ukraine and relationship with Russia.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Vilnius: Hotel Vilnia, Maironio g. 1, Vilnius 01124, Lithuania

Warsaw: Hotel Bristol, Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44, 00-325 Warszawa, Poland

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

The hotels were selected based on location, availability, and rates.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

The lodging rates are below the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel.

The meal rates are equal to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

The Atlantic Council is providing economy-class travel only.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

The trip will not include entertainment paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees.

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:

Julie Varghese

Name and Title: Julie Varghese, Chief Operating Officer

Name of Organization: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

Address: 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20005

Telephone Number: 202-213-8200

Fax Number: 202-778-4952

E-mail Address: jvarghese@atlanticcouncil.org



Atlantic Council

August 28, 2022 to

September 3, 2022

Lithuania and Poland

Agenda: Lithuania and Poland Study Trip, 2022

For reference: [Eurasia Center Congressional Fellowship program](#)

(All times listed are local)

Sunday, August 28 – depart US for Vilnius

6:10 p.m. – 8:10 a.m. +1

Delegation flies from Washington Dulles (IAD) to Frankfurt (FRA) on United Airlines flight UA 8826

Monday, August 29

Arrival - 10:20 a.m.

Layover, delegation connects in airport, boards flight to Vilnius

10:20 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Delegation flies from Frankfurt (FRA) to Vilnius (VNO) on Lufthansa flight LH 886

1:20 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Arrival in Vilnius, pick up luggage, meet driver

1:50 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Delegation transfers to hotel via private transportation

Location: Hotel Vilnia
Maironio str 1, LT-01124 Vilnius

Pickup location: Arrivals

2:10 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Check into Hotel Vilnia

2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Delegation meets in hotel lobby for check in with Ambassador Herbst and Shelby Magid

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Delegation visits Fight for Freedom Museum at Vilnius TV Tower

Location: Sausio 13-osios g. 10, Vilnius 04347



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Topics: Lithuania's fight for independence from Russia

Relevance: Staffers will learn about Lithuania's "Bloody Sunday" in 1991, when pro-independence demonstrators clashed with Soviet forces. The event is critical to Lithuanian independence from the Soviet Union, which looms in current confrontations with Moscow.

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Dinner with Ambassador Petro Beshta, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Lithuania

Location: Vilnius TV Tower
Sausio 13-osios g. 10, Vilnius 04347

Topics: Lithuania's response to Russia's war against Ukraine and aggression in the region, Ukrainian-Lithuanian relations

Relevance: Staffers will hear from Ukraine's ambassador to Lithuania about the view on Russia's war from Lithuania, the status of Ukrainians in Lithuania, and views on US policy toward the region.

7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Delegation transfers to Hotel Vilnia

Departure location: Vilnius TV Tower
Sausio 13-osios g. 10, Vilnius 04347

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Evening coffee, tea, dessert with Linas Kojala, Director of the Eastern European Studies Centre

Location: Hotel Vilnia

Topics: Russia's war in Ukraine and the threat it poses to Baltic states

Relevance: Staffers will hear from the director of Lithuania's top think tank about their assessment of Russia's war in Ukraine and the threat Moscow poses to the Baltic states.

Tuesday, August 30

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Breakfast roundtable with The Hon. Robert S. Gilchrist, US Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania

Location: Hotel Vilnia

Topics: US support for the Baltic states in the face of Kremlin aggression.



Atlantic Council

Relevance: Staffers will hear from the US ambassador to Lithuania about the challenges facing the Baltic region as Russia's war on Ukraine continues, as well as Lithuania's response to the war and support for Ukraine. The ambassador will also discuss the Russian and Belarusian democratic movements that are headquartered in Vilnius.

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Delegation travels to Ministry of Defense

Departure location: Hotel Vilnia

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting with Minister of Defense of Lithuania Arvydas Anušauskas

Location: Totorių g. 25, Vilnius 01121

Topic: Lithuania's response to Russia's war on Ukraine and threats to Lithuania's security and independence, the destabilization of Belarus

Relevance: Staffers will learn about how Lithuania has been a key supporter of Ukraine during Russia's invasion, the threats Lithuania is facing itself from Moscow, and how recent announcements at the NATO Summit in Madrid impact Baltic security. The defense minister will also cover the destabilizing role that Belarus has played in Lithuania's security.

12:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Delegation travels to office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

Pickup Location: Totorių g. 25, Vilnius 01121

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

Location: Café near office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

1:00 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Meeting with Belarusian human rights defenders and organization Viasna

Location: Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Vilnius

Participants: Viasna staff, Sergei Yakupov, Valiantsin Stefanovich

Topic: The state of civil society resistance to Belarusian strongman Alyaksandr Lukashenka

Relevance: Staffers will learn from leaders of key Belarusian human rights organizations about how civil society continues to resist Belarus's authoritarian government following the emergence of a democratic opposition movement in 2020, as well as efforts to free political prisoners in Belarus and maintain support for those persecuted.



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1:45 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Meeting with Belarusian democratic opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and chief adviser Franak Viačorka

Location: Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Vilnius

Topic: The state of the Belarusian democratic opposition movement

Relevance: Staffers will meet with the leader of the Belarusian democratic opposition movement and rightful winner of the 2020 Belarus presidential election Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya to learn about the state of her movement, how foreign support has aided democracy in Belarus, the involvement of Belarusian ruler Alyaksandr Lukashenka in the war on Ukraine, and her relationship with the US.

2:40 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Delegation travels to the Office of the Prime Minister of Lithuania

Pickup Location: Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Vilnius

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Meeting with members of the Office of the Prime Minister of Lithuania

Location: Office of the Government of Lithuania; Gedimino pr. 11, Vilnius 01103, Lithuania

Participants: First Vice-Chancellor Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Head of the International Relations and European Union Group Kestutis Vaškelevičius, and advisers to the prime minister

Topic: Lithuania's response to Russia's war on Ukraine and threats to Lithuania's security and independence

Relevance: Staffers will learn about how Lithuania has been a key supporter of Ukraine during Russia's invasion and how the Lithuanian government sees its role in the response to increasing threats from Russia.

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Delegation travels to Botanist for dinner

Pickup Location: Office of the Government of Lithuania; Gedimino pr. 11, Vilnius 01103, Lithuania

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Dinner with Dr. Laurynas Kasciunas, chair of the National Security and Defense Committee of the Parliament of Lithuania

Location: Botanist, Didžioji g. 26, Vilnius 01128, Lithuania

Topic: Lithuania's foreign policy and relations with the United States



Atlantic Council

Relevance: Lithuania is a key supporter of both Ukraine and the democratic movement in Belarus, and Moscow has tried to pressure Vilnius as a result. Lithuania feels vulnerable from a security perspective in spite of its NATO membership. Staffers will gain further insight into Lithuania's assessment of the NATO summit and its immediate security needs.

7:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Delegation walks to Amatininkų Užėiga

7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Evening coffee, tea, dessert with Jonas Öhman, head of Blue/Yellow for Ukraine

Location: Amatininkai Užėiga, Didžioji g. 19, 01128 Vilnius, Lithuania

Topic: Lithuanian non-governmental organizations roles in supporting Ukraine's armed forces, the status of the war in Ukraine.

Relevance: Staffers will hear from a key civil NGO working to aid Ukrainians and learn about Russia's war against Ukraine from their perspective. Blue/Yellow for Ukraine works with Ukrainian and Lithuanian governments and armed forces providing defense and medical equipment aid. As the organization has close contact with frontline forces in Ukraine and Öhman has traveled to Ukraine throughout the war, he will provide an update on urgent needs and the status of collaboration and assistance between Lithuania, Ukraine, and the US.

Wednesday, August 31

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast with RFE/RL's Vilnius bureau

Location: Hotel Vilnia

Topics: RFE/RL's engagement with audiences in Russia and Belarus through the newly opened bureau in Lithuania, the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine upon free media

Relevance: Staffers will learn about the role RFE/RL plays in the region and their needs in light of Russia's war on Ukraine, which has increased the appetite for credible, uncensored alternatives to Kremlin media to cover the full scope of the conflict. RFE/RL has been labeled an extremist organization by the Belarusian government and was forced to suspend their operations in Russia. The Vilnius news bureau hosts displaced RFE/RL Belarus Service journalists forced to flee Belarus after the fraudulent 2020 elections. The Vilnius bureau journalists will share their views on the challenges facing media, how US assistance helps media, and the threat of Kremlin disinformation.



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8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Delegation travels to Free Russia Foundation offices

Pickup Location: Hotel Vilnia

8:50 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Meeting with Russian opposition politician Vladimir Milov and Chief of Staff for Alexei Navalny Leonid Volkov

Location: Free Russia Foundation Office, Vilnius

Topics: The state of opposition to the Russian government

Relevance: Staffers will learn about how the Russian opposition movement was systematically targeted by the Kremlin ahead of the February invasion of Ukraine, how opposition figures continue their activities in exile, and what is happening to leaders like Alexei Navalny and Vladimir Kara-Murza who have been jailed by the Kremlin to prevent them from organizing against the war.

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Discussion with Mediazona and Russian regional magazine 77

Location: Free Russia Foundation Office, Vilnius

Topics: Russian media freedom

Relevance: Staffers will learn about the state of Russia's media environment following new laws in Russia that led to the closure or exile of all leading independent news media, as well as how journalists continue to try to inform the Russian public and what the barriers to getting accurate information to Russians are.

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Delegation travels from Free Russia Foundation to the Presidential Palace

11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Meeting with former President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė

Location: Presidential Palace, S. Daukanto a. 3, Vilnius 01122, Lithuania. Enter from the Chancellery side, Universiteto st.

Topic: How Lithuania's policy towards Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus have evolved over time

Relevance: Staffers will learn from a top former Lithuanian official about how the country's response to the same issues being faced today were addressed under their government in prior years, with particular attention towards Russian aggression, global authoritarianism, and Belarus.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Meeting with Kęstutis Budrys, Chief Adviser to the President of Lithuania



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Location: Presidential Palace, S. Daukanto a. 3, Vilnius 01122, Lithuania.

Topic: Lithuania's response to Russia's war on Ukraine and threats to Lithuania's security and independence, Lithuania's relationship with allies

Relevance: Staffers will learn about the Lithuanian president's policies and views regarding Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania's relationship with allies.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[Return to hotel, eat lunch nearby](#)

Location: Café near Hotel Vilnia

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[Delegation travels to Parliament of Lithuania](#)

Pickup Location: Hotel Vilnia

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Panel discussion with Members of the Parliament of Lithuania](#)

Location: Parliament of Lithuania, Gedimino, pr. 53

Topic: US-Lithuanian relations, Russia's war in Ukraine, security in Europe

Relevance: Staffers will learn from members of the Lithuanian parliament about common issues before the Lithuanian parliament and the US Congress, such as efforts to ratify NATO membership for Sweden and Finland, continued support for Ukraine, and efforts to safeguard against Russian aggression.

4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

[Meeting with former Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius](#)

Location: Parliament of Lithuania, Gedimino, pr. 53

Topic: How Lithuania's policy towards Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus have evolved over time

Relevance: Staffers will learn from a top former Lithuanian official about how the country's response to the same issues being faced today were addressed under their government in prior years, with particular attention towards Russian aggression, global authoritarianism, and Belarus.

5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

[Delegation travels to dinner at Restoranas Grey](#)

Pickup Location: Parliament of Lithuania



Atlantic Council

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mantas Adomėnas and Minister of Foreign Affairs' adviser Laurynas Jonavičius

Location: Restoranas Grey, Pilies g. 2

Topic: Lithuania's response to Russia's war on Ukraine and threats to Lithuania's security and independence

Relevance: Staffers will learn about areas of partnership between the United States and Lithuania during Russia's war on Ukraine, how new US/NATO support for the Baltic states will impact regional security, and the state of humanitarian aid for refugees from Ukraine and the MENA region after being filtered through Belarus towards Lithuania.

Thursday, September 1 – depart Vilnius for Warsaw

7:00 a.m. - 7:15 a.m.

Delegation meets in hotel lobby with luggage, hotel checkout (*Breakfast to-go bags available for pick-up at hotel*)

Pickup Location: Hotel Vilnia front entrance

7:15 a.m. - 7:35 a.m.

Delegation transfers to Vilnius Airport via private transportation

7:35 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Check-in, security, boarding

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.

Delegation flies from Vilnius (VNO) to Warsaw (WAW) on LOT Polish Airlines flight LO 780

9:05 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Arrival in Warsaw, pick up luggage, meet driver

9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Delegation transfers to hotel via private transportation

Hotel: Bristol Hotel Warsaw
Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44, 00-325 Warsaw

Pickup Location: Warsaw airport arrivals

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Drop off luggage with hotel concierge

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Breakfast roundtable briefing with The Hon. Mark Brzezinski, US Ambassador to the Republic of Poland

Location: Bristol Hotel Warsaw



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Topics of discussion: US-Polish relations, the view from Poland on Russia's war against Ukraine, Polish security

Relevance: Staffers will hear from the US ambassador to Poland and receive insight into the political and security environment in Poland, the impact Russia's war against Ukraine has on relations with various partners, especially the United States.

11:45 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Hotel check in

12:25 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Delegation walks to Atlantic Council Warsaw office

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Roundtable meeting with analysts and think tank representatives, including from The Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), the Center for Eastern Studies (OSW), College of Europe (Natolin), and the Polish-American Freedom Foundation

Location: Atlantic Council Warsaw Office
WeWork - Powierzchnia Biurowa i Coworking
Krakowskie Przedmieście 13, 05-077 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Assessing Russia's war on Ukraine

Relevance: Staffers will receive a briefing from several of the top think tanks in Eastern Europe covering Russia's war on Ukraine. Top Ukraine analysts will meet with staffers to discuss the state of play on the ground and their view on scenarios for how the conflict might end.

2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Delegation transfers to lunch

Pickup Location: Atlantic Council Warsaw Office
WeWork - Powierzchnia Biurowa i Coworking
Krakowskie Przedmieście 13, 05-077 Warszawa, Poland

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Lunch meeting with representatives of the Office of the Mayor of Warsaw

Location Warsaw City Hall, plac Bankowy 3/5, 00-950 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Warsaw's response to the war in Ukraine

Relevance: Staffers will learn about Warsaw's humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine and hear about how the city is handling the surge in Ukrainian refugees.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Delegation transfers to Ministry of Climate and Environment

Pickup Location: Warsaw City Hall, plac Bankowy 3/5, 00-950 Warszawa, Poland



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3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland

Location: Ministry of Climate and Environment, ul. Wawelska 52/54 00-922 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Polish energy policy and Russia

Relevance: Staffers will hear how Poland is changing its energy policy to counter the Kremlin's malign energy activities. They will also learn more about the energy situation in Poland as the country prepares for the winter heating season, and how Poland is helping Ukraine transition to the European energy grid.

4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Delegation transfers to hotel via private transportation, break

Hotel: Bristol Hotel Warsaw
Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44, 00-325 Warsaw

Pickup Location: ul. Wawelska 52/54 00-922 Warszawa, Poland

5:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Delegation transfers to Dinner at Restauracja ukraińska U Sióstr

Location: Restauracja ukraińska U Sióstr
Złota 63A, 00-819 Warszawa, Poland

Pickup Location: Bristol Hotel Warsaw

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner with members of Polish Parliament

Location: Restauracja ukraińska U Sióstr
Złota 63A, 00-819 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Inter-parliamentary issues

Relevance: Staffers will learn from members of the Polish Sejm and Senate about common issues before the Polish parliament and the US Congress, such as efforts to ratify NATO membership for Sweden and Finland, military and financial support for Ukraine's war effort, and lessons from Poland's support of Ukrainian refugees that can be applied to the US Uniting for Ukraine program.

Friday, September 2

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast with Myroslava Gongadze, Eastern Europe Chief of Voice of America News

Location: Bristol Hotel Warsaw breakfast room



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Topic: Media coverage of Russia's war in Ukraine, challenges to media in Ukraine, threat of Kremlin disinformation

Relevance: Staffers will learn about the state of Ukraine's vibrant news media ecosystem and how it has adapted to Russia's invasion to keep the Ukrainian people informed. They will also learn about the critical need for global support for Ukrainian media in order to survive the war and continue coverage.

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Coffee break and walk to Atlantic Council's Warsaw office

Location: Atlantic Council Warsaw Office
WeWork - Powierzchnia Biurowa i Coworking
Krakowskie Przedmieście 13, 05-077 Warszawa, Poland

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Meeting with Pavel Latushka, head of the Coordination Council for the Transfer of Power in Belarus

Location: Atlantic Council Warsaw Office
WeWork - Powierzchnia Biurowa i Coworking
Krakowskie Przedmieście 13, 05-077 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Global efforts to support the Belarusian democratic opposition

Relevance: Staffers will build upon their prior Vilnius meetings with the Belarusian democratic opposition and relevant NGOs by learning about how the Coordination for the Transfer of Power in Belarus has strategically partnered with foreign governments, the private sector, and global civil society organizations to maintain support for the Belarusian democratic movement.

10:10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Meeting with representatives of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland

Location: Atlantic Council Warsaw Office
WeWork - Powierzchnia Biurowa i Coworking
Krakowskie Przedmieście 13, 05-077 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Poland's solidarity with Ukraine

Relevance: Staffers will learn more about Poland's response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and what Poland has done to support their Ukrainian neighbors.

11:00 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

Delegation walks to the Presidential Palace



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11:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.

Meeting with representatives of the Polish President's Chancellery, National Security Advisers

Location: Presidential Palace, Krakowskie Przedmieście 48/50, 00-071 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Poland's security priorities

Relevance: Staffers will learn from about the most important security issues facing Poland today, as the war in Ukraine continues and the Kremlin threatens hybrid aggression in the Baltics and in Europe. Staffers will have the opportunity to discuss the role of NATO in Polish security, as well as the role of the United States in the Baltic region.

12:10 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Delegation transfers to lunch at Little Georgia

Pickup Location: Presidential Palace, Krakowskie Przedmieście 48/50, 00-071 Warszawa, Poland

Meeting Location: Nowogrodzka 40, 00-691 Warszawa, Poland

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Lunch with representatives from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Location: Little Georgia
Nowogrodzka 40, 00-691 Warszawa, Poland

Topic: Poland's diplomatic priorities

Relevance: Staffers will learn from about Poland's diplomatic objectives and foreign policy, which has taken on even greater importance since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Staffers will hear about how the ministry working with partners to react to the war in Ukraine and discuss Poland's related foreign policy priorities in the EU and UN.

1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Delegation transfers to International Center for Ukrainian Victory

Pickup Location: Little Georgia
Nowogrodzka 40, 00-691 Warszawa, Poland

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting with Ukraine's Anticorruption Action Center Board Member Olena Halushka and former Member of the Verkhovna Rada Victoria Voytsitska

Location: International Center for Ukrainian Victory

Topics: Oversight of international support for Ukraine



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Relevance: Staffers will learn about how the Ukrainian government and civil society are conducting oversight of Western financial and military support for the Ukrainian war effort to ensure support is utilized properly.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Meeting with Oksana Nechyporenko, head of Ukraine Crisis Coordination Center and Ambassador Vasyl Zvarych, Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland

Location: International Center for Ukrainian Victory

Topic: The humanitarian situation for Ukrainians in Poland, Ukrainian relations with international organizations, plans for Ukraine's reconstruction

Relevance: Staffers will learn about the Ukrainian embassy in Poland's war response efforts, including addressing the humanitarian crisis facing Ukrainian refugees as tens of millions have been displaced due to Russia's war. They will learn about Ukraine's efforts to streamline deliveries of humanitarian aid, how to apply lessons from ongoing refugee support efforts to the Uniting for Ukraine program in the US, and how resettlement can be properly planned for.

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Delegation transfers to Bristol Hotel Warsaw for dinner

Location: Bristol Hotel Warsaw
Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44, 00-325 Warszawa, Poland

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner with representatives from the Polish Ministry of National Defense

Location: Bristol Hotel Warsaw
Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44, 00-325 Warszawa, Poland

Relevance: Staffers will learn about how Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine has changed Polish defense policy. They will hear about US-Poland defense cooperation and NATO-Poland cooperation.

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Delegation transfers to Residence of the US Ambassador to Poland

Pickup Location: Bristol Hotel Warsaw

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Reception at The Hon. Mark Brzezinski's residence

Location: Residence of the US Ambassador to the Republic of Poland
ul. Idzikowskiego 34, Warsaw



Atlantic Council

Potential participants: US embassy leadership, Atlantic Council representatives in Poland (including Aaron Korewa, Maciej Witucki, and Dariusz Mioduski), Polish business leaders (such as former Council Millennium Leadership Program fellow and Google's director of CEE and transatlantic public policy Marta Poslad, and the Chairman of AmCham Poland Tony Housh), cross-partisan politicians (such as chairman of the Poland 2050 party Michal Kobosko, Mayor of Warsaw Rafal Trzaskowski, Senator Bogdan Klich), and civil society members (such as representatives of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, Pawel Kowal of the College of Europe (Natolin), and head of the Ukraine Crisis Coordination Center Oksana Nechyporenko)

Topics: US-Polish and transatlantic relations, Poland's response to Russia's war in Ukraine

Relevance: Staffers will have the opportunity to debrief their findings and impressions from the delegation's meetings in Warsaw, discuss key takeaways, and engage with a broad cross section of leaders from Polish society, government, and business. Amb. Brzezinski will start the reception with remarks on the importance of US-Polish relations and how the war in Ukraine has impacted these relations and connections to the participants gathered. Amb. (retired) John Herbst will follow with remarks about the purpose of the delegation, share key takeaways, and ask for reception attendees to share their perspectives on Poland, Ukraine, and Russia with the delegation.

Saturday, September 3 – depart Warsaw for US

7:15 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.	Delegation meets in hotel lobby with luggage, hotel checkout
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Delegation transfers to Warsaw Chopin Airport via private transportation <u>Pickup Location:</u> Bristol Hotel lobby
8:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.	Check-in, security, boarding
9:50 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.	Delegation flies from Warsaw (WAW) to Frankfurt (FRA) on Lufthansa flight LH 1347
11:35 a.m. - 1:10 p.m.	Layover, additional US security screening, delegation boards flight to Washington
1:10 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Delegation flies from Frankfurt (FRA) to Washington Dulles (IAD) on United Airlines flight UA 8827

US Senate

Committee on Ethics

Primary Trip Sponsor Form supplemental documentation

Atlantic Council of the US, Inc.

Senate employees invited:

1. Joseph Biegun

- a. *Policy Analyst*, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- b. Reason for inviting: Lithuania and Poland are playing critical roles in the support of Ukraine against Russian aggression. Lithuania is providing critical support to the opposition in Belarus. Ukraine, and Eastern Europe on the whole, is relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

2. Thomas Hanley

- a. *Legislative & Policy Analyst*, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- b. Reason for inviting: Lithuania and Poland are playing critical roles in the support of Ukraine against Russian aggression. Lithuania is providing critical support to the opposition in Belarus. Ukraine, and Eastern Europe on the whole, is relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

3. Alexandra Sabater

- a. *Defense and Foreign Policy Advisor*, Office of Senator Mark Kelly
- b. Reason for inviting: Lithuania and Poland are playing critical roles in the support of Ukraine against Russian aggression. Lithuania is providing critical support to the opposition in Belarus. Ukraine, and Eastern Europe on the whole, is relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

4. Jose Villalvazo

- a. *Defense and Foreign Policy Advisor*, Office of Senator Alex Padilla
- b. Reason for inviting: Lithuania and Poland are playing critical roles in the support of Ukraine against Russian aggression. Lithuania is providing critical support to the opposition in Belarus. Ukraine, and Eastern Europe on the whole, is relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.



Atlantic Council

Joseph Biegun
Policy Analyst
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

July 19, 2022

Dear Joseph,

On behalf of the Atlantic Council, it is my pleasure to invite you to join a staff delegation to Lithuania and Poland led by the Council's Eurasia Center. The trip will take place from **August 28 to September 3, 2022**.

Since its founding, the Center has become a go-to resource on issues pertaining to Eurasia at a time of tremendous importance and change. Russia's war in Ukraine has had a profound impact on the security and stability of Europe and fundamentally changed the way the United States and its allies engage with Russia. At this crucial moment, the United States must continue to support freedom and prosperity in Europe. This staff delegation will take congressional staffers to Vilnius and Warsaw, where they will meet with senior representatives from the Lithuanian and Polish governments, civil society, and private sector. In addition, staffers will have the opportunity to meet with Ukrainian civil society members and officials currently abroad as well as exiled Belarusian democratic leaders and civil society members.

We hope that you can join this timely trip. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Shelby Magid (smagid@atlanticcouncil.org).

Best,

Ambassador John Herbst
Senior Director, Eurasia Center
Atlantic Council