



To: High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell
European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi

Brussels, 16 July 2020

Dear High Representative/Vice President
Dear Commissioner,

The brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters all over Belarus, which took place in the evening of 14 July 2020 in reaction to the Belarusian Central Electoral Commission's decision not to officially register key opposition candidates Viktor Babaryka and Valery Tsapkala, is of particular concern. We welcome a statement by the HR/VP Josep Borrell shortly after the decision of the Central Electoral Commission was announced, as well as an increased attention to the situation in Belarus by the EEAS. Actions around Presidential election in Belarus cannot be called as corresponding to democratically established election procedures. Therefore, more determined actions from the EU's side are required.

In addition to urging Belarusian authorities to cease persecution and arrests of peaceful protesters and immediately and unconditionally release the imprisoned ones, it is of utmost importance to prevent inhumane treatment in detention facilities. We call upon you to urgently initiate visits of the EU Ambassador to Belarus and other diplomatic staff to detention facilities with a purpose to support imprisoned activists, particularly political prisoners, and to assess their imprisonment conditions and health, and in case of insufficient care to bring these cases to the attention of Belarusian authorities.

The OSCE ODIHR officially announced that it will not be able to send an election observation mission to Belarus due to the lack of invitation. Belarusian regime intentionally withheld the timely invitation and in this way ensured an environment prone to falsification of the election results. Moreover, Belarusian authorities deliberately ignore the previous OSCE ODIHR election observation reports with no tangible steps taken to ensure free and fair, and in accordance to the international election standards, elections in Belarus.

Considering the above mentioned, we ask you to ensure that during the election the EU Delegation in Minsk functions in its full capacity and thoroughly monitors and reports on the situation.

We call upon you to apply an effective pressure to Belarusian government by considering the personalized sanctions against Belarusian officials and those involved into brutal dispersal and arrests of peaceful protesters, and violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms, including fair and free election.

The EU support has to be channelled to directly benefit Belarusian people, not the Belarusian regime. Therefore, we call upon you to withhold any financial EU's support to Belarus and to ensure that funds devoted to Belarus to address challenges posed by the Covid-19 do not end up in the State budget of Belarus. We urge you to increase the EU's support to Belarusian civil society and the oppressed democratic opposition, including prisoners of conscience and their families. Such support needs to be a tailor-made to meet the needs and to provide a real time assistance.

Dear High Representative/ Vice President
Dear Commissioner,

When looking into the course of the EU-Belarus relations over the past decades, it becomes evident that a comprehensive strategy for the EU relations with Belarus requires an urgent update. Contribution towards this will be the upcoming European Parliament's recommendation on relations with Belarus.

Our joint actions and their effective implementation will determine whether Belarus becomes a constructive European partner of the EU.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius, Renew Europe, Lithuania
Karin Karlsbro, Renew Europe, Sweden
Sandra Kalniete, EPP, Latvia
Isabel Santos, S&D, Portugal
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Greens/EFA, Germany
Anna Fotyga, ECR, Poland
Sophie in 't Veld, Renew Europe, Netherlands
Ivan Štefanec, EPP, Slovakia
Nathalie Loiseau, Renew Europe, France
Alice Kuhnke, Greens/EFA, Sweden
Attila Ara-Kovács, S&D, Hungary
Olivier Chastel, Renew Europe, Belgium
Traian Băsescu, EPP, Romania
Nikolaj Villumsen, GUE/NGL, Denmark
Rasa Juknevičienė, EPP, Lithuania
Marc Angel, S&D, Luxembourg
Hilde Vautmans, Renew Europe, Belgium
Katalin Cseh, Renew Europe, Hungary
Bartosz Arłukowicz, EPP, Poland
Dragoș Tudorache, Renew Europe, Romania
Miriam Lexmann, EPP, Slovakia
Javier Nart, Renew Europe, Spain
Andrius Kubilius, EPP, Lithuania
David Lega, EPP, Sweden
Nicolae Ștefănuță, Renew Europe, Romania
Milan Brglez, S&D, Slovenia
Arba Kokalari, EPP, Sweden
María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Renew Europe, Spain
Carles Puigdemont, NA, Spain
Nicola Beer, Renew Europe, Germany
Radan Kanev, EPP, Bulgaria
Ivars Ijabs, Renew Europe, Latvia
Jakop Dalunde, Greens/EFA, Sweden
Liudas Mažylis, EPP, Lithuania
Michal Šimečka, Renew Europe, Slovakia
Andrzej Halicki, EPP, Poland
Vlad-Marius Botoș, Renew Europe, Romania
Antoni Comín, NA, Spain
Maria Arena, S&D, Belgium
Janina Ochojska, EPP, Poland
Ramona Strugariu, Renew Europe, Romania
Juozas Olekas, S&D, Lithuania
Clara Ponsatí, NA, Spain
Inese Vaidere, EPP, Latvia
Antonio López-Istúriz White, EPP, Spain
Erik Marquardt, Greens/EFA, Germany
Clotilde Armand, Renew Europe, Romania
Pär Holmgren, Greens/EFA, Sweden