



## **DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH BELARUS**

**- The Chairman -**

### **STATEMENT**

**by Mr Bodgan KLICH,  
Chairman of the Delegation for relations with Belarus**

---

**Brussels, 15 January 2007.** The local elections held yesterday in Belarus resulted once again in the regrettable triumph of the undemocratic regime and in the denial of the fundamental right to free and fair elections to the people of Belarus.

The election campaign, as well the elections themselves, where only some two hundred opposition representatives were able to register out of around twenty four thousand candidates, point out to a clear conclusion: the vote was neither free nor fair, while the democratic conditions of the elections were simply ignored.

The level of the intimidation exercised towards the democratic candidates and the obstacles created in the conduct of their campaign, limiting their access to the media and restraining representation of the opposition parties in the polling station commissions, as well as many irregularities of the early-voting, which opened room for the abuse of the result, a wave of politically motivated detentions and denying a number of independent observers access to the polling stations on the day of the elections constitute ample evidence of the undemocratic atmosphere that dominated the pre-election period and the voting process itself.

As we deplored the results of the presidential elections in March 2006 in Belarus, today we once again deeply regret the consolidation of the undemocratic regime at the heart of Europe.

We particularly condemn the fact that local democracy, which is the cornerstone of any democratic governance and which expresses the will of ordinary people to attain their genuine hopes and expectations, was disregarded and neglected in Belarus.

The respect of the right of the people of Belarus to elect their representatives democratically was the first and the fundamental condition of the European Union, when it extended its offer of partnership to Belarus in November 2006. It is therefore very regrettable that the Belarusian government failed to seize this opportunity and once again has shut the door in front of Europe and in front of its people, denying them their deserved right to enjoy the shared European values and the real benefits of the cooperation with the EU.

*For further information contact:*

*Arnoldas PRANKEVICIUS, Interparliamentary Delegations – European Countries  
tel. 0032-2-283 25 69, [arnoldas.prankevicius@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:arnoldas.prankevicius@europarl.europa.eu)*