

Press release - 999(2010)

Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland reacts to the situation in Belarus

Strasbourg, 21.12.2010 - "President Lukashenko should accept that elections are an occasion for the people to choose its leaders, not the other way around. Flaws in Sunday's presidential vote, as reported by the OSCE, and the crackdown on protesters which we have witnessed since, are a regrettable sign that another opportunity to end Belarus' self-imposed isolation in Europe may be lost. In the Council of Europe we are disappointed but not discouraged, and we will continue to support any genuine initiative which could help to bring Belarus closer to Council of Europe values and Council of Europe membership" stated Thorbjørn Jagland.

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