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*Plenary sitting*

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8.9.2015

B8-0876/2015

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on Belarus  
(2015/2834(RSP))

**Jiří Maštálka, Miloslav Ransdorf, Helmut Scholz, Kateřina Konečná**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**European Parliament resolution on Belarus  
(2015/2834(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU suspended its official relations with the Belarusian authorities following the 2012 parliamentary elections, and whereas sanctions have been introduced at various stages since 2004 in response to the human and democratic situation in the country;
- B. whereas the European Parliament currently has no official relations with the Belarusian Parliament; whereas the parliamentary dialogue has been replaced by a dialogue with civil society, in particular with the representatives of the political opposition;
- C. whereas in March 2012 the Commission launched the European Dialogues on Modernisation with Belarusian society;
- D. whereas the Belarusian Government has continually expressed its interest in a normalisation of relations with the European Union; whereas bilateral relations between many Member States and Belarus have improved; whereas Belarus facilitated the negotiations on the Ukraine ceasefire agreement signed in Minsk;
- E. whereas in March 2015, in the context of the Modernisation Dialogue, the EU and the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a meeting in which – for the first time since 2009 – issues including electoral reform, the judiciary and human rights were discussed; whereas Belarus has expressed its readiness to resume the EU-Belarus Human Rights Dialogue and to receive the EU Special Representative for Human Rights;
- F. whereas on 22 August the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, issued an order ‘based on the principle of humanism’ to release six political prisoners, including former opposition presidential candidate Mikola Statkevich;
- G. whereas the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, Miklós Haraszti, (A/HRC/29/43) revealed that there had been no significant improvement in the overall situation of human rights in Belarus;
- H. whereas Belarus is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union; whereas Russia is Belarus’s most important trading partner and accounts for almost half of Belarus’s international trade;
- I. whereas capital punishment continues to be used in Belarus, and whereas in 2014 three people were executed, and a new death sentence was pronounced on 18 March 2015;
- J. whereas the next presidential elections are scheduled for 15 November 2015;

1. Takes the view that the political dialogue between the EU and Belarus should be unblocked;
2. Takes the view that the policy of sanctions has proved to be counterproductive and calls for the sanctions to be lifted as soon as possible;
3. Calls for normal parliamentary relations to be established between the European Parliament and the Parliament of Belarus; takes the view that this is the appropriate framework for a comprehensive dialogue on issues of common interest, including those where the partners have fundamental differences;
4. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to create the conditions for free and fair presidential elections; underlines the need to provide all democratic political forces with space for political discussion and for the right to freedom of assembly, association and expression to be respected; calls on the authorities to ensure transparency and public participation in the electoral processes and, in particular, to:
  - (a) create independent, pluralistically composed election commissions;
  - (b) ensure a transparent vote count in the elections, including full and open observation by election commission members and other stakeholders;
5. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to protect human rights defenders and journalists from harassment, intimidation and violence and to conduct prompt, impartial and thorough investigation, prosecution and punishment of any such acts;
6. Reiterates its calls on Belarus to introduce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition; expects that this issue will be efficiently tackled in the framework of the Human Rights Dialogue between Belarus and the EU;
7. Welcomes the readiness of the Belarusian authorities to restart the dialogue with international partners such as the EU on human rights problems; supports the recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights concerning the development of a national human rights plan of action to ensure follow-up to, and implementation of, all recommendations made by the international human rights system, in broad consultation with all human-rights-promoting civil society organisations and the general public;
8. Welcomes the contribution of Belarus to the negotiation of the Minsk agreements; calls for the potential of Belarus to be used to overcome the confrontation between Russia, Ukraine and the EU;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, the Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Parliament and Government of Belarus.