



**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS
WITH BELARUS, MEP Robert BIEDRO , AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT’S
STANDING RAPPORTEUR ON BELARUS, MEP Petras AUŠTREVIIŠIUS**

on the convening of the so-called All Belarusian People’s Assembly

Brussels, 11 February 2021 - “Six months have passed since the fraudulent presidential election in Belarus. Despite ruthless repression from the state security apparatus and politically controlled courts, Belarusian people continue to brave all dangers to demand that their political rights and fundamental freedoms be respected.

In this context, we put no stock in today’s convening of the so-called All Belarusian People’s Assembly announced by Aliaksandr Lukashenka.

This Assembly is a mere travesty of democracy and lacks any legitimacy as it deliberately failed to engage with the representatives of Belarus’ civil society and democratic forces. Therefore, any semblance of decision it may take under the regime’s dictation will have no value.

Rather than trying to deceive Belarusians and the international community with such political machinations, the regime should put a halt to the widespread repression and human rights violations and accept a genuine national dialogue leading to a smooth power transition.

Until then, we stand by the brave people of Belarus in their quest for dignity and freedom.”

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