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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Konrad Krzysztof Szymański, Rolandas Pavilionis and Anna Elzbieta Fotyga

on behalf of the Union for Europe of the Nations Group

on Belarus

B6-0053/2004

European Parliament resolution on Belarus

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the forthcoming elections and referendum on further extending the Presidential term of office in Belarus,
 - having regard to the resolutions adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights on Belarus in April 2003 and 2004 and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution No 1371/2004 on disappeared persons,
 - having regard to the decision of the UN Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on the situation in Belarus,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the situation as regards human rights, citizens' rights and fundamental freedoms has reached a critical stage in Belarus,
- B. whereas the Belarusian authorities continue to demonstrate their unwillingness to tolerate any form of political opposition,
- C. alarmed at the numerous cases of opposition activists and independent journalists being detained, imprisoned, fined and expelled from universities,
- D. concerned at the continuing repression of the independent media and NGOs,
- E. deeply concerned at the reports of 'disappeared' persons in Belarus,
1. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to immediately guarantee the holding of free and fair elections by inviting the representatives of the opposition parties to play a full role as members and observers at every level of the work of electoral commissions;
 2. Deplores the actions of the Belarusian authorities establishing a registration system aimed at eliminating independent candidates from the electoral lists;
 3. Rejects as totally undemocratic the move to make major democratic opposition parties, including the Labour Party and the Belarusian People's Front, illegal;
 4. Calls on the authorities in Belarus to carry out comprehensive, impartial and open investigations into the 'disappearance' of opposition activists Viktor Hanchar, Yury Zaharanka, Anatoly Krasouski and Dzmitry Zavadski and to free Mikhail Marynich, Valery Levaneuski, Professor Yury Bandazheuski and other political prisoners;
 5. Urges the Government of Belarus to bring to justice those who are implicated in forced disappearances and/or summary executions and fully supports the measures proposed by

the UN Commission on Human Rights with regard to the situation in Belarus;

6. Expresses its willingness to send election observers to the parliamentary elections and the referendum on the third presidential term of office in Belarus in order to assist the Belarusian authorities to carry out their tasks in line with internationally accepted democratic electoral standards;
7. Calls the Member States to take appropriate action against the failure to recognise the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the establishment of a pluralist society in Belarus and to consider refusing to issue visas for 10 years to Belarusian judges, prosecutors, policemen and university rectors or other officials who have acted at any time against democratic opposition or NGOs by not recognising their right to freedom of opinion and expression;
8. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to halt their repressive actions against private colleges and to renew the registration of the European Human Sciences University in Minsk and the Jakub Kolas school, the only secondary school where all courses are taught in the Belarusian language;
9. Calls on European public opinion, the media, politicians and officials to pay greater attention to the serious problems related to the failure to respect democracy and the right to freedom of opinion and expression in Belarus;
10. Stresses that EU relations with Belarus depend on progress towards democratisation and reform and calls on the Commission to closely monitor the human rights situation in Belarus and to examine ways of supporting organisations working for the restoration of human rights;
11. Calls on the Commission to consider establishing an office in Minsk linked to its Delegation to Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus in order to maintain a closer dialogue with the Belarusian authorities if there is a real hope that Belarus will initiate an early process of democratisation and reform and that it will take its place among European democratic countries;
12. Welcomes the decision of the UN Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus and the objective of elaborating a programme on human rights education for all sectors of society;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the Government of Belarus.