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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up debate on statements by the Council and Commission

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

by Jan Marinus Wiersma, Joseph Muscat and Justas Vincas Paleckis

on behalf of the PSE Group

on Belarus

**European Parliament resolution on Belarus**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Belarus, in particular its resolution of 16 September 2004,
  - having regard, in particular, to its resolution of 24 October 1996 on the situation in Belarus, in which it decided that no further steps would be taken towards ratification of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement until clear signals had been given by the Belarussian authorities of their intention fully to respect basic democratic and human rights,
  - having regard, in particular, to its resolution of 5 July 2001 on Belarus adopted prior to the 2001 presidential elections, and to the reports of the Parliamentary Troika (OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and European Parliament) published after the 2000 general election (30 January 2001) and the 2001 presidential election (4 October 2001),
  - having regard, in particular, to its resolution of 11 February 2003 on relations between the European Union and Belarus: towards a future partnership,
  - having regard to the parliamentary elections and the constitutional referendum which took place in Belarus on 17 October 2004,
  - having regard to the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions by the International Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections in Belarus,
  - having regard to the declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the parliamentary elections and the referendum of 17 October 2004 in Belarus,
  - having regard to the declaration by the Head of the OSCE Office in Minsk on the attacks on opposition politicians in Minsk,
  - having regard to the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004, which was signed by the President of the USA on 20 October 2004,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the International Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections in Belarus has come to the conclusion that the Belarussian authorities failed to ensure the fundamental conditions necessary for the will of the people to serve as a basis for the authority of the government and that democratic principles were largely disregarded by the authorities,
- B. whereas the elections were marred by active exclusion and de-registering of opposition

candidates, aggressive repressive actions against opposition candidates, their families and campaign workers, detention of campaign workers and seizure of opposition campaign material, strongly biased media attention, pressure on certain groups of voters and a lack of transparency at the majority of the polling stations,

- C. whereas representatives of the opposition were excluded from the electoral committees and local and international observers were often prevented from fully observing the voting process and were in some cases refused access to the polling stations,
  - D. whereas during the days following the elections peaceful demonstrations by the opposition were violently halted by the Belarussian riot police and whereas the leader of the United Civic Party, Anatoly Lebedko, was hospitalised after having been beaten up in a public restaurant,
  - E. whereas the leader of the Belarussian Social Democratic Party, Mikalai Statkevich, and the Malady Front leader, Pavel Severinets, were arrested, together with about 40 other persons, after these demonstrations and detained; whereas several journalists were prevented from reporting news of the demonstration and arrested but released after identification,
  - F. whereas these elections and the climate of fear and abuse in which they were conducted have rendered yet more remote the likelihood that Belarus can integrate into Europe's democratic structures and institutions,
1. Stresses that the parliamentary elections and the referendum of 17 October failed to meet international standards for democratic elections and therefore cannot be considered free and fair;
  2. Strongly condemns the violent attacks committed by the Belarussian regime against students, leading opposition figures and journalists following peaceful political demonstrations in Minsk; urges the Belarussian authorities to immediately release all those who were detained after these demonstrations;
  3. Is of the opinion that the way in which these elections and the referendum were conducted and the following violent attacks on political opponents of the regime are the expression of a further step towards the establishment by President Lukashenko of an almost dictatorial regime in Belarus;
  4. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States to continue and wherever possible to reinforce their policy of isolation of President Lukashenko and the members of his regime until clear steps are taken which demonstrate their willingness to respect democratic values and the rule of law;
  5. Urges the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States at the same time to increase - together with other democratic countries and international institutions - support for all remaining democratic forces in Belarus and to assist more effectively those people in Belarussian civil society working for democratic change in Belarus;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States, the Government and Parliament of Belarus and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.