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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

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

by Bogdan Klich, Elmar Brok, Camiel Eurlings, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Aldis Kuškus, Barbara Kudrycka, Vytautas Landsbergis, Jacek Emil Saryusz-Wolski and Charles Tannock

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the situation in Belarus after the presidential elections of 19 March

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Belarus after the presidential election of 19 March**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Belarus,
  - having regard to the US Congress' resolution 'expressing support for the efforts of the people of the Republic of Belarus to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and urging the Government of Belarus to conduct a free and fair presidential election on March 19, 2006', passed on 8 March 2006,
  - having regard to the OSCE/ODIHR's preliminary election assessment statement of 20 March 2006,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Belarus presidential elections took place on 19 March 2006,
- B. whereas former President Lukashenko extended his new term off office through a constitutional referendum which did not meet international democratic standards, and the results of which have not been recognised by the international democratic community,
- C. whereas the Belarus authorities conducted the elections in a climate of fear by repeatedly harassing and arresting prominent opposition leaders and members of student and minority organisations, including Christian Churches, campaign activists and members of pro-democracy political parties,
- D. whereas the Belarus authorities suppressed freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of the media and freedom of demonstration in the run-up to, and after, the elections,
- E. whereas serious allegations have been made that massive fraud took place in the counting of votes in favour of the incumbent President, Aleksander Lukashenko, and many indicators point to a confirmation of these allegations,
1. Expresses its solidarity with Aleksander Milinkevich and the United Democratic Forces, and all Belarusian citizens who strive for an independent, open and democratic Belarus based on the rule of law;
  2. Welcomes the impressive mass demonstrations against the non democratic and sham nature of the elections showing the desire of a large part of society to restore true democratic rights and political freedom in their country, thus revealing a huge democratic potential in Belarus;
  3. Urges the Belarus authorities to annul all judgements against peaceful demonstrators and

to free all members of the opposition who were arrested during peaceful demonstrations in recent weeks;

4. Denounces the presidential elections of 19 March 2006 as not having fulfilled the required international standards of free, fair, equal, accountable and transparent elections; considers therefore that, by implication, Mr Lukashenko cannot be recognised as the legitimate President of Belarus and that new presidential elections must be held in compliance with international democratic standards;
5. Denounces the central election committee for not having provided representatives of all candidates with equal access to polling stations during the elections;
6. Denounces the Belarus authorities for not providing all presidential candidates with equal and impartial access to state broadcasters and media, thus failing to guarantee equality of opportunity to disseminate their political platforms in the campaign;
7. Denounces the Belarus authorities for not allowing certain foreign journalists to enter Belarus to observe the elections;
8. Denounces the Belarus authorities for not allowing delegations from the European Parliament and the national parliaments of EU Member States to observe the elections on 19 March 2006, and for expelling observers from Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Ukraine and Poland;
9. Welcomes the decision of the Council to add Mr Lukashenko to the visa ban list, but calls on the Council and the Commission to expand the visa-ban list to include representatives of the Belarus local, regional and national authorities who were involved in breaching the human rights and political freedoms of Belarusian citizens during and after the electoral campaign, in particular those listed in Annex 1;
10. Calls on the Commission and the Council to work towards an international freezing of the assets of Belarusian authorities abroad; and to freeze the personal assets of President Lukashenko and his close advisors;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Council to make proposals on how to further isolate Mr Lukashenko's government in international organisations;
12. Calls on the Commission and the Council to redirect all forms of financial support for the government of Mr Lukashenko to citizens' initiatives and small and medium-sized enterprises which are not linked to the government;
13. Calls on the Commission to revise its external policy towards Belarus and to make proposals as to how democracy, the rule of law and human rights can be promoted;
14. Calls on the Commission and the Council to create a visa facilitation regime for Belarus civil society Belarus and to support and strengthen TV, internet and radio broadcasting programmes for Belarus in order to help Belarusian citizens obtain impartial and accurate information about their country and the world;

15. Calls on the Commission and the Council to fund additional educational exchange programmes for Belarusian young people who have been expelled from their universities for political reasons;
16. Calls on the Council and the Commission to urgently raise the issue of Belarus with the Russian authorities so as to define a common responsibility for bringing about concrete democratic changes in that country, and to stop the political repression and human rights violations;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Belarusian authorities, and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.