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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on statements by the European Council and Commission  
pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by André Brie

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the results of the parliamentary elections in Belarus

**European Parliament resolution on the results of the parliamentary elections in Belarus**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the preliminary findings and conclusions of the OSCE Election Observation Mission to the Parliamentary Elections in Belarus on 28 September 2008,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on Belarus, in particular that of 22 May 2008 on the arrest of political opponents in Belarus,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the OSCE deployed some 450 international observers from 43 countries, including more than 320 short-term observers and 58 experts and long-term observers, as well as 66 parliamentarians and staff from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
- B. whereas the OSCE election observation missions confirmed improvements in the election process, such as increased access of opposition representatives to election commissions, the decision to rebroadcast once the five-minute candidate spots during prime time, and improved possibilities for the candidates to conduct meetings in authorised locations without preference; whereas cooperation extended to the OSCE observation mission by the authorities was considerably improved; whereas voting was well conducted,
- C. whereas, nevertheless, the election environment in Belarus still failed to allow genuine political competition and equal treatment of election competitors by the authorities; whereas serious concerns remain with regard to the fundamental rights of freedom of assembly and expression; whereas the legislative framework continues to present obstacles for elections in line with OSCE commitments; whereas the composition of the election commission diminished stakeholders' confidence in the election process; whereas there were serious shortcomings concerning transparency of the vote count,
- D. whereas, prior to the parliamentary elections, the Belarusian Government committed itself to creating the conditions for free, fair and transparent elections; whereas the repeated signals of good will did not seem to have been correctly given or received by the authorities,
- E. whereas the OSCE Election Observation Mission concluded that ‘these elections ultimately fell short of OSCE commitments for democratic elections’,
1. Deeply deplores the fact that the parliamentary elections in Belarus failed to meet the recognised international standards for democratic elections; notes that not a single representative of the opposition was elected to the Belarusian Parliament;
  2. Stresses that respect for human and democratic rights are basics for the development of relations between the EU and Belarus, as is the case for EU relations with any other country; calls on the Belarusian authorities to guarantee constitutionally established

democratic rights, such as the rights of expression, association and assembly and freedom of press;

3. Notes that the strategy of political isolation of Belarus has failed; takes the view that dialogue and cooperation are the best way to develop good neighbourly relations and mutual understanding, including on human and democratic rights; calls, therefore, for an increase in official, commercial and cultural exchanges between the EU and Belarus and progress in the establishment of relations of good neighbourly and mutual advantage;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government and Parliament of Belarus.