

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

3.10.2008

B6-0534/2008

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 Konrad Szymański, Adam Bielan, Wojciech Roszkowski, Andrzej Tomasz Zapalowski, Ryszard Czarnecki and Inese Vaidere

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the situation in Belarus after the parliamentary election of 28 September 2008

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European Parliament resolution on the situation in Belarus after the parliamentary election of 28 September 2008

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the OSCE Election Observation Mission (EOM) statement of preliminary findings and conclusions of 29 September 2008,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Belarus,
 - having regard to the Commission's declaration of 21 November 2006 on the European Union's readiness to renew its relationship with Belarus and its people within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP),
 - having regard to its Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, which was awarded in December 2004 to the Belarusian Association of Journalists and in December 2006 to Alexander Milinkevich,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Parliament has pointed out that the Lukashenko regime lacks all democratic legitimacy and remains the last dictatorship in Europe, and whereas it has repeatedly condemned the corrupt presidential, parliamentary and local elections in Belarus,
- B. whereas elections to the Belarusian Parliament took place on 28 October 2008,
- C. whereas the OSCE EOM for the parliamentary elections in Belarus has come to the conclusion that the Belarusian authorities failed to fulfil the OSCE commitments for democratic elections,
- D. whereas, according to the OSCE report, the Belarusian Electoral Code still fails to implement democratic standards and, in particular, gives full control over all election processes to the government,
- E. whereas, according to the observers, current electoral procedures do not provide for transparency and accountability in the counting of votes,
- F. whereas observers reported that the election process degenerated during the vote count, counting procedures were bad in 48% of cases observed and observers did not have a full view of the closing and counting process in 41% of polling stations observed,
- G. whereas the opposition candidates did not have equal access to the media and were not allowed to have their electoral materials printed,
- H. whereas candidate or party observers were present in very few of the electoral committees, were often prevented from fully observing the voting process and were in

some cases refused access to polling stations,

1. Stresses that the parliamentary elections of 28 October 2008 failed to meet international standards for democratic elections and therefore cannot be considered as free and fair;
2. Believes that the parliament elected in Belarus does not have a true democratic mandate to represent the Belarusian people;
3. Notes, however, that this election was organised with some minor improvements as regards democratic standards;
4. Expresses its solidarity with all Belarusians who strive for an independent, democratic Belarus based on the rule of law, as a member of the European community of nations;
5. Demands that the Belarusian authorities change the Electoral Code to make it fully compatible with democratic standards and, in particular, to abolish mobile voting procedures;
6. Reiterates that the European Union has declared its readiness to renew its relationship with Belarus and its people within the framework of the ENP as soon as the Belarusian Government demonstrates respect for democratic values and for the basic rights of the Belarusian people;
7. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States to continue 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;
8. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the international community as a whole to extend more support to the civil society of Belarus and, in particular, to increase financial aid for citizens' initiatives, non-governmental organisations and small and medium-sized enterprises which are not linked to the government;
9. Calls on the Council and the Commission to grant financial support for the independent Belarusian television channel Belsat;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the government and parliament of Belarus and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.