



Plenary sitting

B8-0869/2016

29.6.2016

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 105(4) of the Rules of Procedure

on the Commission delegated decision of 15 April 2016 amending Annex III to Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union, as regards Belarus
(C(2016)02164 - 2016/2669(DEA))

Marco Zanni, Marco Valli
on behalf of the EFDD Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Commission delegated decision of 15 April 2016 amending Annex III to Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union, as regards Belarus
(C(2016)02164 - 2016/2669(DEA))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission delegated decision (C(2016)02164),
 - having regard to Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union¹, and in particular Articles 4(2) and 18(5) thereof,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Belarus, in particular the most recent one of 10 September 2015²,
 - having regard to the EU-Belarus Human Rights Dialogue of 7 June 2016,
 - having regard to the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders,
 - having regard to the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
 - having regard to Rule 105(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Belarus remains a centralised and autocratic state, tightly controlled by the President;
- B. whereas President Lukashenko was re-elected on 11 October 2015 with 83.5 % of the vote, but significant problems, particularly during counting and tabulation, undermined the integrity of the elections;
- C. whereas despite some positive actions taken since August 2015, human rights violations are still rampant and systematic;
- D. whereas human rights defenders and journalists are monitored and often harassed and it is almost impossible to create independent associations;

¹ OJ L 139, 8.5.2014, p. 1.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0319.

- E. whereas journalists working for independent media or working for foreign media without accreditation are often detained, prosecuted and fined;
 - F. whereas for decades the opposition has been entirely absent from the parliament;
 - G. whereas Belarus remains the only country in Europe where the death penalty is applied;
 - H. whereas on 19 May 2016 the Homyel Regional Court passed a death sentence against Siarhei Vostrykau, representing the third new death sentence passed by a Belarusian court in 2016; whereas this also follows the execution of Syarhey Iwanow in April 2016 and the confirmation by the Belarusian Supreme Court of three further death sentences originally handed down in previous years;
1. Objects to the Commission delegated decision;
 2. Considers that the delegated decision does not take properly into consideration all the aspects relating to respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy in Belarus;
 3. Recalls the importance it attaches to improvements in respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Belarus;
 4. Recalls that any Commission amendments to Annex III should be based on a real and effective assessment including economic, social, environmental and political aspects, in particular those relating to democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and to notify the Commission that the delegated decision cannot enter into force.