



Plenary sitting

B9-0278/2020

14.9.2020

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Belarus
(2020/2779(RSP))

Petras Auštrevičius, Vlad-Marius Botoș, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Klemen Grošelj, Bernard Guetta, Moritz Körner, Frédérique Ries, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Ramona Strugariu
on behalf of the Renew Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Belarus
(2020/2779(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions on Belarus, in particular those of 24 November 2016 on the situation in Belarus¹, of 6 April 2017 on the situation in Belarus², of 19 April 2018 on Belarus³, and of 4 October 2018 on the deterioration of media freedom in Belarus, notably the case of Charter 97⁴,
 - having regard to the launch of the Eastern Partnership in Prague on 7 May 2009 as a common endeavour of the EU and its six Eastern European Partners Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine,
 - having regard to the Joint Declarations of the Eastern Partnership Summits of 2009 in Prague, 2011 in Warsaw, 2013 in Vilnius, 2015 in Riga and 2017 in Brussels,
 - having regard to the declaration by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on behalf of the European Union of 11 August 2020 on the presidential elections,
 - having regard to the statement of the President of the European Parliament of 13 August 2020 and that of the leaders of the five political groups of 17 August 2020 on the situation in Belarus following the so-called presidential election of 9 August 2020,
 - having regard to the extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council of 14 August 2020 and that of the European Council of 19 August 2020 on the situation in Belarus,
 - having regard to the statement by the VP/HR of 7 September 2020 on arbitrary and unexplained arrests and detentions on political grounds,
 - having regard to the EU Global Strategy and the revised European Neighbourhood Policy,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas no new political party has been registered in Belarus since 2000, despite repeated attempts;
- B. whereas since early May, more than 650 peaceful protesters, journalists and civic activists have been detained across the country for protesting against Aliaksandr

¹ OJ C 224, 27.6.2018, p. 135.

² OJ C 298, 23.8.2018, p. 60.

³ OJ C 390, 18.11.2019, p. 100.

⁴ OJ C 11, 13.1.2020, p. 18.

Lukashenka's regime;

- C. whereas the Belarusian electoral processes fell short of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) guidelines that call for respect for fundamental freedoms, equality, universality, political pluralism, confidence, transparency and accountability;
 - D. whereas systematic irregularities and violations of international electoral standards were reported during polling;
 - E. whereas the Central Election Commission of Belarus announced incumbent President Aliaksandr Lukashenka winner of the so-called elections;
 - F. whereas unprecedented peaceful protests started immediately after the announcement of the so-called election results, with hundreds of thousands gathering on the streets of Belarus;
 - G. whereas the Belarusian protests are of a scale previously unseen, are nationwide and intergenerational, with the visible leadership of women, and include persons of different occupations;
 - H. whereas the response of the security forces to peaceful protests has been very harsh, with frequent use of excessive, unnecessary and indiscriminate force;
 - I. whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported more than 6 700 persons detained in recent weeks while exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly; whereas experts have received reports of at least 450 cases of torture and ill-treatment of people deprived of their liberty; whereas six individuals remain unaccounted for (1 September 2020); whereas several missing people have been found dead;
 - J. whereas Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, a prominent opposition figure considered by the Belarusian people to be President-elect, was forced to flee the country along with other opposition politicians, leaders of the workers' movement and activists;
 - K. whereas six of the seven members of the Presidium of the National Coordination Council have either been imprisoned (Liliya Ulasava, Maksim Znak, Siarhei Dyleuski, Maria Kalesnikava) or forced to leave Belarus (Pavel Latushka, Volha Kovalkova) and attempts were made to take Svetlana Alexievich;
- 1. Underlines its non-recognition, in line with the position of the European Council, of the results of the so-called presidential elections that took place in Belarus on 9 August 2020;
 - 2. Strongly condemns the ongoing intimidation and persecution of opposition figures, peaceful protesters, civil society activists and independent journalists;
 - 3. Calls for an immediate halt to violence and the immediate and unconditional release of all those detained for political reasons, before and after the 9 August 2020 elections;

4. Condemns the Belarusian authorities' crackdown on the activities of the National Coordination Council, particularly the arrests and expulsion of its members and other opposition activists from Belarus;
5. Calls for an independent and effective investigation into the protest-related deaths of Alyaksandr Taraykouski, Alyaksandr Vikhor, Artsyom Parukou, Henadz Shutau and Kanstantsin Shyshmakou;
6. Expresses its solidarity with the Belarusian people who are demanding freedom, democracy, and respect for their human rights and their right to choose their own destiny;
7. Supports a peaceful transition of power as a result of an inclusive national dialogue in full respect of the Belarusian people's democratic and fundamental rights; calls for the organisation, in this respect, of new, free and fair elections that meet internationally recognised electoral standards, under international supervision led by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;
8. Condemns the suppression of the media and the internet, as well as the intimidation of journalists;
9. Condemns the hybrid interference of the Russian Federation in Belarus, notably delegating so-called media experts to the Belarusian state media and advisors to the military and law enforcement agencies, and calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to halt its interference and refrain from any further interference in the internal processes of Belarus; calls on the Russian Federation to play a constructive role in finding a peaceful solution to the situation in Belarus;
10. Calls on the Member States to urgently adopt restrictive measures against individuals responsible for the falsification of the elections and repression in Belarus;
11. Underlines the need for a comprehensive investigation into the crimes committed by the regime against the people of Belarus;
12. Underlines the importance of a comprehensive review of EU-Belarus relations, aiming to support the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations; calls for an increase in the EU funding available to Belarus and for the funds to be channelled to Belarusian civil society, while freezing any EU fund transfers to the current Belarusian Government;
13. Encourages EU Member States to facilitate and accelerate the procedures for obtaining visas for those fleeing Belarus for political reasons or for those who require medical treatment as a result of violence perpetrated against them and to offer them and their families the necessary support;
14. Underlines the importance of countering the spread of disinformation about the EU, its Member States and institutions in Belarus;
15. Deplores the fact that Belarus has already loaded nuclear fuel into the first reactor of the Astravyets nuclear power plant and is planning to start producing energy in November

2020, without fully implementing the stress test recommendations, which is even more concerning in these times of high political instability;

16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the authorities of the Republic of Belarus.