



---

*Plenary sitting*

---

**B9-0250/2023**

9.5.2023

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on Belarus: the inhumane treatment and hospitalisation of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka  
(2023/2693(RSP))

**Helmut Scholz, Nikolaj Villumsen**  
on behalf of The Left Group

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on Belarus: the inhumane treatment and hospitalisation of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka (2023/2693(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regards its article 144
  - A. whereas following the contested presidential election in 2020 and the start of the war in Ukraine, the Belarusian authorities have prosecuted tens of thousands of individuals, including people who oppose the war and the involvement of Belarus in it;
  - B. whereas in July 2021 former presidential candidate Viktor Babaryka who was sentenced to 14 years of jail was hospitalised reportedly with traces of beatings; whereas other political prisoners were recently admitted to hospital after being reportedly exposed to violence in prison;
- 1. Expresses concern at the hospitalization of political prisoners, in particular Viktor Babariko, and reports that they were subjected to mistreatment while in detention; calls on the Belarussian authorities to grant immediate and unimpeded access to medical care and to hold those responsible for the abuses accountable;
- 2. Expresses deep concern at reports of human rights defenders, opposition leaders, activist, trade unionist and journalists continue to be subjected to arbitrary detention and prosecution, violence and intimidation; urges the Belarusian authorities to put an end to this confrontation, to release all political prisoners and to engage in a genuine dialogue with the Belarusian society; condemns de sentencing of Roman Protassevitch to 8 years of prison;
- 3. Urges the authorities to comply with international standards and law regarding notably fair justice, proper medical evaluation and assistance, and access to lawyers and family for the persons in jail;
- 4. Calls on Belarus to end crackdown on free media, and immediately release all independent journalists and bloggers and to reverse decisions on the closure of independent media outlets;
- 5. Condemns the arrest and harsh sentences against 32 trade union activists who fought for labour rights and protested against any Belarusian support for the Russian war against Ukraine and calls for their release; encourages trade unions across the Member States to further enhance contacts with their Belarusian counterparts and to exchange information on the development of the situation of trade union activists in Belarus;

6. Strongly criticises that the Belarusian authorities continue to arbitrarily label organisations, online resources, printed and other material as ‘extremist’; notes with concern that at the end of 2022, 32 journalists remained imprisoned for their work;
7. Expresses concern at the legislation amended in 2022 to extend the application of the death penalty to “attempted crimes” in terrorism-related cases, in violation of Belarus’ obligations as a state party to the ICCPR and calls on Belarus to reverse it;
8. Highlights the risk of nuclear conflict in the region and calls for all parties to refrain from taking any steps in that direction; deplores Belarus’ decision to renounce its non-nuclear status and calls for effective measures for regional denuclearisation to be at the core of future security agreements; condemns the deployment of nuclear weapons by nuclear powers to third countries;
9. Expresses concern at the negative impact of the EU’s sanctions for the Belarusian people;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EU’s institutions, the MS, the Belarus’ Government, the ETUC