

**Question for written answer E-007072/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Brando Benifei (S&D)

Subject: State repression of university student activists in Belarus

According to a report by the Belarusian Students' Association (BSA), since the beginning of the academic year, arbitrary detentions have been carried out against students protesting peacefully in Belarus, sometimes with the help of university administrations, with 146 students expelled from their universities for their political activism. In addition, several members of the BSA and other activist students have been arrested by the KGB, while many others have had to leave the country and are now living in exile. These findings have been confirmed by other independent sources.

In the light of these events and the Council conclusions of October 2020:

1. What measures have been and will be taken to freeze cooperation and projects between the EU and Belarusian state authorities, including universities whose leadership has been involved in political repression and human rights violations?
2. What has been done so far and what will be done to redirect EU funds so as to provide urgent and medium-term financial assistance to Belarusian civil society, including young people and students, especially to those individuals and organisations facing state repression, such as the BSA, as well as to the Belarusian political exiles?