

Question for written answer E-000221/2024/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Janina Ochojska (PPE)

Subject: Tackling the disinformation of the Lukashenka regime

The authorities in Belarus are stepping up legal and political pressure to prevent independent journalists and media from reporting on political, economic and social developments in the country. As a result of the ongoing repression, any significant, influential independent news media outlets, professional journalists and other media actors have either ceased to report on sensitive issues or have fled abroad and are now located in EU Member States, mainly Poland and Lithuania.

In September 2023, the European Parliament adopted a resolution¹ condemning the repression and systematic human rights violations in Belarus against political activists as well as journalists. Members of the European Parliament expressed their opposition to disinformation and hate speech coming from the main media outlets, which are controlled by Lukashenka and to which Belarusian citizens are exposed.

In light of the above:

1. What action is the Commission taking to combat the propaganda and pervasive disinformation of the Lukashenka regime?
2. Is the Commission taking steps to increase the visibility at EU level of publications by journalists opposed to Lukashenka, so that the Kremlin narrative does not affect EU citizens?

Submitted: 24.1.2024

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2023-0258_EN.pdf