



14.3.2012

B7-0178/2012 }  
B7-0179/2012 }  
B7-0181/2012 }  
B7-0182/2012 }  
B7-0183/2012 } RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 110(4) of the Rules of Procedure

replacing the motions by the following groups:

S&D (B7-0178/2012)  
ALDE (B7-0179/2012)  
PPE (B7-0181/2012)  
Verts/ALE (B7-0182/2012)  
ECR (B7-0183/2012)

on the situation in Belarus ((2012/2581(RSP))

**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Vytautas Landsbergis, Jacek Protasiewicz, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Peter Šťastný, Arnaud Danjean, Krzysztof Lisek, Ioannis Kasoulides, Cristian Dan Preda, Andrzej Grzyb, Tunne Kelam, Filip Kaczmarek, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Alojz Peterle, Ria Oomen-Ruijten**

on behalf of the PPE Group

**Véronique De Keyser, Libor Rouček, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Kristian Vigenin, Marek Siwiec**

on behalf of the S&D Group

**Kristiina Ojuland, Ivo Vajgl, Ivars Godmanis, Sonia Alfano, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Marietje Schaake, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck**

on behalf of the ALDE Group

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**Werner Schulz**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Charles Tannock, Marek Henryk Migalski, Paweł Robert Kowal, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Ryszard Czarnecki, Michał Tomasz Kamiński**

on behalf of the ECR Group

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## European Parliament resolution on the situation in Belarus ((2012/2581(RSP))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Belarus, in particular those of 14 February 2012<sup>1</sup>, 15 September 2011<sup>2</sup>, 12 May 2011<sup>3</sup>, 10 March 2011<sup>4</sup>, 20 January 2011<sup>5</sup>, 10 March 2010<sup>6</sup> and 17 December 2009<sup>7</sup>,
- having regard to the Conclusions of the European Council of 1-2 March 2012, expressing its deep concern over the further deterioration of the situation in Belarus,
- having regard to Council Decision 2012/126/CFSP of 28 February 2012 implementing Decision 2010/639/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus<sup>8</sup>,
- having regard to the statement of 28 February 2012 by High Representative Catherine Ashton on her decision and that of the Polish Government to recall the Head of the EU Delegation in Minsk and the Polish Ambassador to Belarus respectively,
- having regard to the Council Decision 2012/36/CFSP of 23 January 2012 amending Decision 2010/639/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus,
- having regard to Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly resolution 1857 (2012) of 25 January 2012 on the situation in Belarus, which condemned continuous persecution of members of the opposition and the harassment of civil society activists, independent media and human rights defenders in Belarus,
- having regard to UN Human Rights Council resolution 17/24 of 17 June 2011 on the situation of human rights in Belarus, which condemned the human rights violations before, during and after the presidential elections in Belarus and called on the Government of Belarus to end the ‘persecution’ of opposition leaders,
- having regard to the declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit adopted in Prague on 7-9 May 2009 and the Declaration on the situation in Belarus adopted on the occasion of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw on 30 September 2011,
- having regard to the joint statement made by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad Group, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in Prague on 5 March 2012,
- having regard to the statement made by the Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2012)0063.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2012)0392.

<sup>3</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2011)0244.

<sup>4</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2011)0099.

<sup>5</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2011)0022.

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 349E, 22.12.2010, p. 37.

<sup>7</sup> OJ C 286 E, 22.10.2010. p. 16.

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 55, 29.2.2012, p. 19.

Partnership Civil Society Forum in Minsk on 2 March 2012,

- having regard to the decision taken at the Annual Congress of the International Ice Hockey Federation in Berne in May 2009 to hold the 2014 IIHF World Championship in Belarus, despite the persecution of Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s political opponents and widespread human rights abuses in Belarus,
  - having regard to Rule 110(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Prague Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit reaffirms the commitments, inter alia of Belarus, to the principles of international law and to fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- B. whereas the political situation in Belarus has been seriously deteriorating since the presidential elections of 19 December 2010, with repressive measures being taken against members of the democratic opposition, the free media, civil society activists and human rights defenders, despite repeated calls from the international community to halt these measure immediately;
- C. whereas, on 28 February 2012, underlining the further deterioration in the situation in Belarus, the EU Foreign Ministers decided to add 21 Belarusian officials, responsible for repression of civil society and the democratic opposition, to the list of people subject to the assets freeze and visa ban;
- D. whereas an EU-Belarus diplomatic conflict of unprecedented scope escalated after the Belarusian authorities requested that the ambassador of the EU and the Polish ambassador leave the country, and recalled their own ambassadors from Brussels and Warsaw in response to the European Council decision of 28 February 2012;
- E. whereas, in this context, Aliaksandr Lukashenka followed up with an offensive personal attack on the German Foreign Minister, with no regard for diplomatic etiquette;
- F. whereas the ambassadors of the EU Member States in Minsk were all called back to their capitals for consultations, and all EU Member States summoned the Belarusian ambassadors to their foreign ministries;
- G. whereas any improvement in bilateral relations with the European Union is also conditional upon the release of all political prisoners and progress being made by the Government of Belarus in meeting its OSCE commitments and respecting fundamental human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles;
- H. whereas large numbers of representatives of the Belarusian democratic opposition and civil society activists, including former presidential candidates, as well as prominent human rights defenders, remain in prison on political grounds;
- I. whereas young activists and members of youth organisations have constantly been under pressure or experiencing harassment in many different ways, like Ivan Shyla, a member of

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'Young Front', who spent 22 days in jail for last year's campaign of solidarity with Dzmitrij Dashkevich;

- J. whereas on 24 February 2012 a district judge in Vitsyebsk sentenced the opposition activist Syarhey Kavalenka to two years and one month in a low-security correctional institution on a charge of violating probation rules; whereas Kavalenka was arrested on 19 December 2011, on the anniversary of the flawed presidential election; whereas he has been on hunger strike against his unjust sentence for 86 days now and his health condition is critical;
- K. whereas the Belarusian authorities are violating Article 30 of the Belarusian constitution and limiting the right of free movement of citizens; whereas on 1 March 2012 the Belarusian Prosecutor-General's Office announced that Belarusians who backed new foreign sanctions against Belarus could be barred from travelling abroad; whereas three opposition leaders and activists – Anatol Lyabedzka, Alyaksandr Dabravolski, and Viktor Karnyayenka – and human rights defender Valyantsin Stefanovich were not allowed to cross the Belarusian-Lithuanian border between 7 and 11 March;
- L. whereas the Belarusian Ministry of Justice decided on 14 February 2012 to refuse to register the Belarusian Christian Democracy (BCD) party for the fourth time, without any legal reason for doing so; whereas, according to reports, BCD members were for the first time threatened with physical assault if they did not withdraw their signatures as party founders;
- M. whereas, in the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011, signed into law by President Barack Obama on 3 January, the United States has called on the IIHF to suspend its plan to hold the 2014 championship in Belarus until the Government of Belarus releases all political prisoners;
  - 1. Continues strongly to condemn the deteriorating situation as regards human rights and fundamental freedoms, combined with the lack of deep democratic and economic reforms in Belarus, and will continue to oppose the repression of the regime's opponents in Minsk;
  - 2. Condemns the continuous persecution of human rights defenders and members of the democratic opposition and the harassment of civil society activists and the independent media in Belarus for political reasons;
  - 3. Demands the unconditional and immediate release of all political prisoners; reiterates that there cannot be any progress in the EU-Belarus dialogue without progress by Belarus in terms of democracy, human rights and rule of law and until all political prisoners, including Ales Bialiatski, Chair of the Human Rights Centre 'Viasna' and Vice-President of the FIDH, two ex-presidential candidates Mikalai Statkevich and Andrei Sannikau, heads of the presidential campaigns of democratic opposition candidates Pavel Seviarynets and Dzmitry Bandarenka, and Syarhey Kavalenka, a political prisoner detained for an alleged breach of house arrest, who has been on a prolonged hunger strike, which has led to a critical deterioration in his health and directly threatens his life, are unconditionally released and their civil rights are fully rehabilitated;
  - 4. Stresses that the decision to withdraw all the ambassadors of the EU Member States from Belarus proves that the Belarusian authorities' attempts to divide the European Union over

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decisions on sanctions have failed;

5. Emphasises that a firm commitment on the part of all EU Member States and other democratic countries to act in a united manner in times of necessity can help promote universal values in such countries as Belarus and bring them closer to the path of democratic transition;
6. Condemns the offensive rhetoric used by Aliaksandr Lukashenka vis-à-vis the German Foreign Minister;
7. Stresses that, instead of choosing increasing self-isolation, Minsk should make the right choice for its people and open itself to democracy;
8. Calls on the National Ice Hockey Federations of the EU Member States and all other democratic countries to urge the IIHF, including at its next Congress in May in Helsinki, Finland, to re-discuss its earlier decision envisaging the possibility of relocating the 2014 World Ice Hockey Championship from Belarus to another host country until all political prisoners, recognised by international human rights organisations as ‘prisoners of conscious’, are released and until the regime shows clear signs of its commitment to respect human rights and the rule of law;
9. Welcomes the Council's decision of 28 February 2012 to strengthen restrictive measures and to add 21 persons responsible for the repression of civil society and the democratic opposition in Belarus to the list of those targeted by a travel ban and an asset freeze;
10. Calls on the Council to take stock of the latest developments in EU-Belarus diplomatic relations and of the further deterioration in the situation regarding human rights and basic freedoms in the country and, on this basis, to adopt a decision concerning further restrictive measures, including targeted economic sanctions;
11. Stresses that the European Union and Belarus should have good neighbourly relations and that these should be strongly supported by EU close engagement with civil society and the democratic opposition in Belarus and its support for the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people;
12. Reiterates its call on the Commission to support, with financial and political means, the efforts of Belarusian civil society, independent media (including TV Belsat, European Radio for Belarus, Radio Racja and others) and non-governmental organisations in Belarus to promote democracy;
13. Stresses the need for increased cooperation between the EU and its eastern neighbours in the framework of the Eastern Partnership, including its parliamentary dimension – the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly – with the shared aim of initiating a genuine process of democratisation in Belarus;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, the

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Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Parliament and Government of Belarus.

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