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Amendment 8

Helmut Scholz

on behalf of The Left Group

Joint motion for a resolution

PPE, S&D, Renew, Verts/Ale, ECR

Systematic repression in Belarus and its consequences for European security following the abductions from an EU civilian plane intercepted by Belarusian authorities

Joint motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Joint motion for a resolution

12. Underlines the urgent need to maintain and expand contacts and cooperation with *representatives* of Belarusian democratic *forces in Minsk and in exile, and* in particular with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and members of the Coordination Council and National Anti-Crisis Management; *therefore, joins the calls to invite their representatives on the occasion of the G7 summit of 11-13 June 2021 and the Eastern Partnership summit in 2021 and recommends continuing to invite them to high-level bilateral meetings at governmental level, as well as to parliamentary sessions and interparliamentary meetings, and to create groups dedicated to Belarus in all national parliaments of the EU Member States;*

Amendment

12. Underlines the urgent need to *establish*, maintain and expand contacts and cooperation with *all parts* of Belarusian democratic *civil society*, in particular with *those within Belarus, but also those in exile, and not to limit the support and cooperation to* Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and members of the Coordination Council and National Anti-Crisis Management;

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Amendment 9

Helmut Scholz

on behalf of The Left Group

Joint motion for a resolution

PPE, S&D, Renew, Verts/Ale, ECR

Systematic repression in Belarus and its consequences for European security following the abductions from an EU civilian plane intercepted by Belarusian authorities

Joint motion for a resolution

Paragraph 17

Joint motion for a resolution

17. ***Calls on the Council to swiftly adopt and implement economic sanctions, which must be substantial and have, as much as possible, an immediate effect on the Belarusian regime, its supporters and the economic actors that support the regime; calls for these economic sanctions to target public and private companies controlled by the regime or closely entangled with the regime's business interests or known for dismissing their employees for participating in strikes or protests; calls for sectoral sanctions to target in particular the crude oil and oil-products, potash, steel and wood-processing industries; furthermore calls for the termination of cooperation and financing for Belarusian state-owned banks and for limiting credit lines from international banks for subsidiary banks in Belarus and for consideration to be given to temporarily suspending Belarus from the SWIFT system; asks for EU-registered companies, particularly Siemens AG, to stop collaborating with the Belarusian authorities through***

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Amendment

17. ***Expresses concern at the negative impact of the economic sanctions already imposed or planned by the EU for the whole Belarusian population; therefore rejects general and sectoral economic sanctions as they risk deepening the rift in Belarusian society, contributing to the worsening of the social situation of many people in the country, and will not contribute to a return to democracy and reconciliation in Belarusian society; recognises the need for targeted restrictive measures on the politicians responsible or other persons found guilty of violating human rights and responsible for the oppression of those striving for a pluralistic democratic society and debate, exercising their political and social rights, including the right to strike and freedom of expression;***

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sharing technology and know-how; calls on the Member States and the EU institutions to increase their efforts to tackle the substantial cigarette smuggling from Belarus into the EU, which provides funds to the Lukashenka regime; encourages a coordinated EU action of solidarity to offset the economic hardships for the Member States most affected by the economic sanctions on Belarus;

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Amendment 10

Helmut Scholz

on behalf of The Left Group

Joint motion for a resolution

PPE, S&D, Renew, Verts/Ale, ECR

Systematic repression in Belarus and its consequences for European security following the abductions from an EU civilian plane intercepted by Belarusian authorities

Joint motion for a resolution

Paragraph 22

Joint motion for a resolution

22. Stresses that *although the EU's best chances to properly deal with unlawful states is through sanctions-mechanisms, the EU, in addition to sanctions on Belarusian state-owned enterprises, should utilise existing internal pressures in Belarus by supporting Belarusian civil society;*

Amendment

22. *Expresses concern that EU policies, combining sanctions with financial and material support for parts of civil society with close links to particular Member States and mainly working from outside the country, amount to regime change policies imposed from international actors interested for geopolitical reasons; stresses that the continuation of this strategy could give the Lukashenka administration scope to continue its policies of splitting Belarusian society and deepening the gap between various parts of the population;*

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Amendment 11

Helmut Scholz

on behalf of The Left Group

Joint motion for a resolution

PPE, S&D, Renew, Verts/Ale, ECR

Systematic repression in Belarus and its consequences for European security following the abductions from an EU civilian plane intercepted by Belarusian authorities

Joint motion for a resolution

Paragraph 23

Joint motion for a resolution

23. ***Calls on the Commission and the VP/HR, together with international partners, to initiate the organisation of a high-level ‘Future of Democratic Belarus’ international conference on the resolution of the crisis in Belarus, and the investigation and prosecution of crimes by the Belarusian authorities against the people of Belarus and the democratic transformation of Belarus; considers that such a conference, led by the EU and attended by international financial institutions, G7 countries, EU Member States and institutions and others willing to pledge a multi-billion euro financial package, will serve to support the future reform efforts and restructuring of the economy and will send a strong signal of support to the Belarusian people;***

Amendment

23. ***Reiterates its support, and notes the international support, for the protesting civil society in Belarus striving to overcome the dead-end and find a solution to the deep crisis; calls on all international actors, however, to exercise the utmost restraint, in particular as far as financial support for the conflicting parties is concerned; criticises the selective approach of the EU and other international actors in their choice of forces to support under geopolitical considerations; calls for transparency on the distribution of financial support by the EU, its Member States, the US and other international state and non-state actors to parts of the opposition;***

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Amendment 12

Helmut Scholz

on behalf of The Left Group

Joint motion for a resolution

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Systematic repression in Belarus and its consequences for European security following the abductions from an EU civilian plane intercepted by Belarusian authorities

Joint motion for a resolution

Paragraph 23

Joint motion for a resolution

23. Calls on the Commission and the VP/HR, together with international partners, to ***initiate*** the organisation of a high-level ‘Future of Democratic Belarus’ international conference on the ***resolution of the crisis in Belarus, and the investigation and prosecution of crimes by the Belarusian authorities against the people of Belarus and the democratic transformation of Belarus***; ***considers that such a conference, led by the EU and attended by international financial institutions, G7 countries, EU Member States and institutions and others willing to pledge a multi-billion euro financial package, will serve to support the future reform efforts and restructuring of the economy and will send a strong signal of support to the Belarusian people***;

Amendment

23. Calls on the Commission and the VP/HR ***to determine***, together with international partners, ***such as the OSCE and the UN, concrete assistance that the EU could lend to international efforts for the organisation of a high-level ‘Future of Democratic Belarus’ international conference focused on ending the confrontation between the Lukashenka regime and the Belarusian people and starting a national dialogue on the way forward; urges all international actors to respect the right of the Belarusian people to decide their path of development free from any external pressures and interference; underlines the urgency of a society-wide debate about the reform of the constitution of the country and the reforms needed to ensure the stable and sustainable development of the country, bringing together the various democratic political and civil society forces of the country***;

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Amendment 13

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Systematic repression in Belarus and its consequences for European security following the abductions from an EU civilian plane intercepted by Belarusian authorities

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Paragraph 22

Joint motion for a resolution

22. Stresses that *although the EU's best chances to properly deal with unlawful states is through sanctions-mechanisms, the EU, in addition to sanctions on Belarusian state-owned enterprises, should utilise existing internal pressures in Belarus by supporting Belarusian civil society;*

Amendment

22. Stresses that *the accelerating spiral of imposing more and more sanctions, which brings to mind failed US maximum pressure policies, is not a reasonable alternative to the acceptance of the previous policy of the Lukashenka regime aimed at selective balancing between increased relations with the Russian Federation on one side and intensified relations with the European Union on the other with the sole aim of ensuring that the regime's own political power is kept; notes that both policies have failed and have resulted in ever-growing repressions within Belarus and regional tensions;*

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