

In response to the recent developments in Belarus

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening virtually on 11-12 June 2021:

Expressing serious concern over the recent developments in Belarus, namely:

- the forced landing of a Ryanair civil aircraft with a use of military force to arrest journalist Raman Pratasevich;
- the elimination of popular independent media outlet Tut.by and the arrest of its journalists;
- the death of political prisoner Viltold Ashurak, of unknown causes in custody.

Underlining:

- the blatant disregard for the international civil aviation regulations, exposing Lukashenka's rule as a threat to international peace and security;
- the ongoing vehement crackdown on the opposition and free media;
- the raging repressions which lead to 400 political prisoners.

Welcomes the immediate reaction of the ALDE Party, Renew Europe Parliamentary Group, the European Commission, the European Council, the OSCE, and the Council of Europe.

Calls for:

- the immediate release and rehabilitation of all political prisoners and those unjustly detained including Raman Pratasevich and Sofia Sapega;
- measures to sharpen the response of the international community, including:

1) Non-recognition and political pressure:

- firmly maintain the non-recognition policy towards Lukashenka's regime;
- initiate a high-level conference on the resolution of the Belarus crisis with participation of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya;
- investigate human rights violations and prosecute those who authorised and perpetrated acts of violence, torture, inhumane treatment and unlawful actions that have resulted in injuries, trauma, loss of life.

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2) Economic pressure:

- discontinue the EU sectoral cooperation, technical and financial assistance instruments and other cooperation programmes implemented by Belarusian national and local authorities;
- adopt a new package of economic sectorial sanctions;
- impose a ban on exports of equipment to Belarus that could be used for oppression, and sanction companies and organisations who engage in such activity;
- prohibit EU and multinational corporations from engaging in economic and financial relations with any of the companies listed (indicative Annex 1);
- launch EU Comprehensive Plan of support for democratic Belarus.

3) Solidarity and support:

- enhance support for Belarusian civil society;
- adopt a contingency package to support Belarusian independent media.

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Annex 1:

Belarusian state-owned enterprises and “wallets” of the regime

1. Oil and oil products:
 - a. “Belneftekhim” (The Belarusian State Concern for Oil and Chemistry)
 - b. OJSC “Naftan” (Naftan Oil Refinery)
 - c. JSC “Mozyr Oil Refinery”
 - d. CJSC “New Oil Company” (owner: Mikalai Varabei)
2. Fertilisers and chemical industry:
 - a. JSC “Belaruskali”
 - b. JSC “GrodnoAzot”
 - c. The plant Polymir of JSC Naftan
 - d. JSC Belshina
 - e. JSC “Polotsk-Steklovolokno”
 - f. JSC “Grodno Khimvolokno”
 - g. JSC “Mogilevkhimvolokno”
3. Metallurgy:
 - a. OJSC Byelorussian Steel Works
 - b. OJSC «BSW - management company of «BMC» holding»
4. Wood:
 - a. UE “Bellesexport”
 - b. “Ivatsevichdrev - woodworking holding management company”
 - c. CJSC “Pinsk drev”
 - d. JSC “Svetlogorsk pulp & board mill”
 - e. JSC “Dobrush paper factory “Geroy truda”
5. Banks
 - a. JSC Savings Bank “Belarusbank”
 - b. JSC “Belagroprombank”
 - c. JSC “Belinvestbank”
 - d. JCS “Bank Dabrabyt”
 - e. JSC “Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus”
 - f. CJSC “MTBank” (owner: Aliaksei Aleksin)

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