



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**STATEMENT  
ON THE SITUATION IN BELARUS**

12 August 2020  
Vilnius

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

*emphasising* that the results of the presidential election held in Belarus on 9 August 2020 were falsified;

*noting* that no international organisation has recognised any of the parliamentary and presidential elections held in Belarus to date as free and fair; while peaceful protests by the Belarusian population held immediately after 9 August 2020 were suppressed by brutal force, which resulted in arrests and injuries of thousands of protestors and at least one loss of life;

*reminding* that the freedom of expression and right to democracy in Belarus have been deliberately restricted by the Belarusian authorities over the past 26 years, while representatives of the opposition in the country have been regularly arrested or otherwise persecuted;

**fully supports** the determination of the Belarusian people to build their country's future in accordance with the principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights, so as to ensure freedom, independence and faster rapprochement of Belarus with the European Union;

**calls on** the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and other authorised institutions of Lithuania to deny recognition to the results of the elections held in Belarus on 9 August 2020 and likewise deny recognition to President Lukashenko as a legitimate leader of Belarus; to call on the parliaments of all democratic states to support Lithuania's position and, together with the European Union, demand the organisation of new and transparent elections in Belarus that would comply with all the democratic procedures; to demand the immediate release of all the imprisoned opposition and civil society representatives; to demand putting an end to the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators and ensuring the freedom of press, freedom of assembly, and other political and civil rights in Belarus;

**calls on** the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to immediately draw up, in cooperation with representatives of Belarusian civil society, a list of Belarusian officials liable for or contributing to the forgery of the results of the presidential elections and violations of civil and human rights in Belarus, with a view to banning their entry to Lithuania; and to call on other EU Member States, the European Parliament, and other allies to, accordingly, ban the entry of the listed representatives of Belarus to the Schengen area and allied states in the non-Schengen area, as well as to urgently adopt a European universal human rights sanctions regime;

**calls on** the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, together with the European Union, to actively support Belarusian non-governmental organisations and communities and provide them with additional direct support and asylum in EUMS if needed, and accordingly limit any financial or other support to the state institutions of Belarus;

**calls on** the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania to mediate, should the opportunity arise, in the dialogue between the Belarusian civil society and the Belarusian authorities with a view to implementing the above requirements; also calls on the European Union to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Council of the European Union to discuss the situation in Belarus and raise the issue of enforcing an EU-wide embargo on the electricity produced by Astravyets NPP;

**supports** the idea of holding an extraordinary session of the Seimas to discuss the situation in Belarus together with representatives of the Belarusian civil society.

Juozas Bernatoniš  
Chair