

BELARUSIAN DECLARATION

of the delegates of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- Taking into account the shared historical and cultural origins of the statehood of European nations and the good-neighbourly relations established between them;
- Desiring prosperity and well-being to the democratic Belarusian state;
- Noting that the necessary precondition for the very existence of a democratic society is the observance of human rights standards, in particular, the right to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly;
- Welcoming the aspirations of the Belarusian people for free expression of will in elections and transparent and fair counting of votes;
- Sympathising with the struggle of the Belarusian people for freedom and democracy;
- Recalling that the statehood and political independence of the Council of Europe member-states were forged through fair and democratic elections, as well as through the exercise by citizens of freedom of peaceful assembly;

The delegates to PACE:

- declare that the campaign for the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the voting on August 9, 2020, and the counting of votes do not meet international electoral standards, were conducted with mass violations of the rights and freedoms of citizens, and do not reflect the free will of the Belarusian people;
- condemn the use of violence against the participants of peaceful assemblies in Minsk, Grodno, Gomel, Brest and other Belarusian cities;
- call on the Belarusian authorities to immediately release all illegally detained participants of the peaceful assemblies;
- encourage the launch of peaceful dialogue between all parties to the electoral process;
- welcome independent investigation of allegations of excessive use of force by law-enforcement bodies towards participants of peaceful assemblies;
- express readiness to facilitate the dialogue between the parties of the electoral process and confirm willingness to provide a platform for the negotiations;
- warn the Russian Federation against interfering in the internal affairs of Belarus.

Algirdas Butkevičius

Head of Lithuanian delegation to PACE

