



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO  
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS**  
**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

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Ms Ursula von der Leyen  
President  
European Commission

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Mr David Maria Sassoli  
President  
European Parliament

Mr Charles Michel  
President  
European Council

**ON THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS FOLLOWING THE FALSIFIED  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

Honourable Presidents,

At the video Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC held on 14 September 2020, we discussed challenges of the German Presidency and how to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Europe has been hit extensively by COVID-19 because, most likely, no one could have expected or prepared for the crisis of this magnitude in the first place. We have learned a lot and there is still much to be done, because COVID-19 has not retreated yet.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we cannot remain indifferent to other developments that hold crucial importance for the European Union and its values.

The people of Belarus, the neighbours of our Union, aspire for democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and simply for an opportunity to make their own decision on the future of their country.

We are perfectly aware of the difficulty of the path and the importance of support from the international community in this fight for the state, freedom and democracy. That is why we should not remain mere passive observers but rather support those who defend, by peaceful means, the values advocated by all of us.

We are all in agreement that the people of any country have the right to democratic elections. We all condemn violence against peaceful civilians and support a peaceful political dialogue.

That is why, we

*emphasising* that the results of the presidential election held in the Republic of Belarus on 9 August 2020 were falsified and *refusing to recognize them*,

*deeply concerned* by the brutal force, which was used immediately after 9 August this year to suppress the peaceful protests of the people of the Republic of Belarus and which resulted in thousands of peaceful protestors being arrested, injured, and in a few cases even killed,

*expressing* sincere condolences to the victims, their families and relatives,

*inspired* by the determination and persistence demonstrated by the people of Belarus in pursuit of freedom and democracy,

*supporting the proposals* to promptly de-escalate the situation, halt the use of brutal force, and release and stop persecuting all the protesters who had taken part in peaceful protests and all journalists,

*calling* on the Belarusian authorities to embark on a sincere dialogue with the citizens,

**fully support** 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 and independence;

**strongly condemn** the use of violence and force by Belarusian authorities and call for refraining from any further violent acts;

**call** on the Belarusian society, opposition forces, and the authorities to seek peaceful political dialogue by all possible means and work towards solutions to the situation only through peaceful dialogue;

**welcome** the position expressed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the European Union and by the European leaders on the illegitimacy of the presidential election in the Republic of Belarus and the decisions on sanctions to those responsible for violence, repression, and electoral fraud;

**address** the heads of institutions of the European Union, national parliaments, and governments of the Member States of the European Union and:

1) **invite them to call for** holding a new and transparent presidential election in the Republic of Belarus, which would meet democratic standards and be monitored by independent international observers; halting the use of violence against peaceful protesters; immediately and unconditionally releasing all those detained arbitrarily or for political reasons; and ensuring the freedom of press, freedom of assembly, and other political and civil freedoms in Belarus;

2) **call for imposing effective sanctions** against Belarusian officials who are liable for or have contributed to the falsification of the results of the presidential election in Belarus and are responsible for or have contributed to violations of civil and human rights in Belarus;

3) **encourage** granting asylum to Belarusian citizens in the EU Member States if needed and restricting any financial or other support to state institutions of Belarus;

4) **invite** the governments of the EU Member States to pay particular attention to the difficult situation in the Republic of Belarus and to actively respond to the events in this state of strategic importance for the entire European Union;

5) **call on** Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to continue to follow the developments in Belarus and to actively participate in the search for democratisation and peaceful solutions.

We are also pleased to inform you that the same letters have been sent to the national parliaments and governments of the European Union.

Yours sincerely,



Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Lithuanian Seimas

List of signatories:

Anneli Ott

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Estonian Riigikogu

Bogdan Klich

Chair of the Foreign and European Union Affairs of the Polish Senat

Vita Anda Terauda

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Latvian Saeima

Reinhold Lopatka

Chair of the Standing Sub-Committee on European Union Affairs of the Austrian National Council

Christian Buchmann

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Austrian Federal Council

Karin Brouwers

Co-chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs of the Belgian Senate

Guido Wolf

Chair of the Committee on European Union Questions of the German Bundesrat

Václav Hampl

Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Czech Senate

Yves Cruchten

Chair of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, on Cooperation, Immigration and Asylum of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies

Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Chair of the Standing Committee on European Affairs of the Dutch Eerste Kamer

Gunther Krichbaum

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Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Polish Sejm