



Brussels, 15/12/2020
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Dear Petitioners,

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 August, expressing concern about the situation in Belarus.

The Presidential elections on 9 August 2020 were neither free nor fair, and State authorities deployed disproportionate and unacceptable violence causing many injuries, documented cases of torture and several deaths.

The European Union has reacted quickly and set out a firm line. On 14 August 2020, the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers made clear that the EU considers the elections were fraudulent and therefore did not accept the results as presented by the Belarus Central Election Commission. These positions were reaffirmed on 19 August 2020, when the European Council stated that the people of Belarus had the right to determine their future.

Unfortunately, the situation continues to deteriorate. The brutal crackdown continues, against peaceful protesters, journalists, members of the Coordination Council or simply against citizens.

The EU has adopted sanctions against 55 individuals, including Aleksandr Lukashenko, identified as responsible for violence, repressions and falsification of election results, and stands ready to impose additional sanctions if the situation continues to deteriorate.



The Foreign Affairs Ministers adopted new Council Conclusions on Belarus on 12 October 2020, sending a clear message to the Belarusian authorities that 'business as usual' was no longer possible in EU-Belarus relations. The EU is reviewing its relations with Belarus to scale down cooperation, and to reorient its bilateral financial EU assistance away from the central authorities and stepping up support to the civil society. The EU also stands ready to support a democratic transition in Belarus and to identify very concrete proposals that the EU is ready to offer for a new democratic Belarus.

I would like to confirm to you that the EU expresses full solidarity with the people in Belarus and will continue its work aimed at stopping repression and contributing to peaceful and democratic change in Belarus. The people of Belarus deserve better and their demand for new free and fair elections should be answered positively.

We shall continue to follow the situation very closely including via our Delegation in Minsk.

Yours sincerely,

For the European External Action Service