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Dear Petitioners,

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 August, expressing concern about the situation in Belarus, and reassure you that the EU follows developments in Belarus very closely and we keep Belarus high on our political agenda.

The European Union has reacted quickly and set out a firm line. On 14 August, 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 the 19 August, when the European Council stated that the people of Belarus had the right to determine their future. Further, on 24 September, the EU declared that Aleksandr Lukashenko lacks any democratic legitimacy.

The EU has adopted sanctions against 55 individuals, including Aleksandr Lukashenko, identified as responsible for violence, repressions and falsification of election results. Unfortunately, the situation continues to deteriorate. The brutal crackdown continues, against peaceful protesters, journalists, members of the Coordination Council or simply against citizens. As a result, on 19 November, the EU Foreign Ministers agreed to start preparations of a next sanctions package.

On 12 October 2020, EU Foreign Affairs Ministers also adopted Conclusions, 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.



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.

The EU shall continue to follow the situation very closely including via its Delegation in Minsk.

Yours sincerely,

[E-Signed]

Richard Tibbels