



## SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

### RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS FOLLOWING THE FALSIFIED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

18 August 2020 No XIII-3281  
Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

*emphasising* that the results of the presidential elections held in the Republic of Belarus on 9 August 2020 have been falsified,

*noting* that no international organisation has recognised any of either the parliamentary or presidential elections held in Belarus to date as free and fair, and that peaceful protests by the Belarusian population held immediately after 9 August 2020 have been suppressed by brutal force resulting in thousands of protestors being arrested, wounded, some killed,

*reminding* that the freedom of expression and right to democracy in Belarus have been constantly curtailed by the Belarusian authorities in recent decades, while representatives of the opposition in the country have often been arrested or otherwise persecuted,

*welcoming* the plan for resolving the crisis in Belarus presented to the Belarusian authorities by Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania, which proposes to urgently de-escalate the situation and to halt the use of brutal force, to release all the arrested protesters and to put an end to their persecution as well as to initiate the government's dialogue with the citizens,

**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 leaders of the Republic of Lithuania, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the national parliaments and governments of EU Member States and NATO countries and:

- 1) **urges** to deny recognition of the results of the elections held in Belarus on 9 August 2020 and likewise deny recognition of President Alexander Lukashenko as a legitimate leader of Belarus;
- 2) **invites to call for** holding new and transparent presidential and parliamentary elections in Belarus that would meet the democratic standards, halting the use of violence against peaceful protesters, immediately releasing all the imprisoned members of the opposition and civil society, and ensuring the freedom of press, freedom of assembly and other political and civil freedoms in Belarus;
- 3) **proposes** to immediately establish an EU mediation mission for Belarus aimed at helping to resolve the political crisis and regulate the conflict situation in the country;
- 4) **calls for** imposing sanctions against Belarusian officials who are responsible for or have contributed to the falsification of the results of the presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus and civil and human rights violations in Belarus;
- 5) **proposes** approving the EU global human rights sanctions regime which should allow at the EU level for the imposition of restrictive measures, notably asset freezes and EU entry bans, against any individual responsible for the committing of human rights and freedoms violations as well as other crimes;
- 6) **encourages** to provide active and direct support to Belarusian non-governmental organisations and communities, grant necessary asylum to Belarusian citizens in EU Member States if needed, and limit any financial or other support to the state institutions of Belarus.
- 7) **calls for** holding an extraordinary meeting of the European Council to discuss the situation in the Republic of Belarus, including the issue of EU-wide embargo on electricity produced by the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets.

Speaker of the Seimas

Viktoras Pranckietis



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## Resolution of the Seimas calls for an end to the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators and for transparent elections in Belarus

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*Press release, 18 August 2020*



Members of the Seimas gathered for an extraordinary session to discuss the situation in the neighbouring Republic of Belarus after the presidential election.

As noted by Irena Degutienė, Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, Member of the Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) Political Group, Belarusians and other proud nations of the country have declared their right to dignity, freedom, and democracy.

‘It is not just a fight, but rather self-defence. It is an indispensable defence not only against the brutal dictator and his henchmen guarding him armed to teeth, defence not only in the face of the shameful demagoguery and lies – it is rather the necessity of the Belarusians and Belarus to defend themselves in this moment of history. It is therefore a matter of honour to stand together with them in their struggle for the right of every person to live in freedom and dignity. We must support our historical brothers and sisters, and we must do this in the name of respect for the human being, the nation and the state,’ said Irena Degutienė.

According to Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas, who participated remotely in the meeting due to self-isolation, international organisations and media underline that Lithuania has a crucial role to play and is taking the most courageous steps to ensure that the interests of the Belarusian people are heard: 'The Resolution included in today's work programme underlines the truth about the presidential election in Belarus and demands accountability from those who have deceived the Belarusian people and, faced with their resistance, started to humiliate and torture them. This will be an important starting point for united action by Europe and the wider international community.

In full support for the determination of the Belarusian people to shape their country's future in accordance with the principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, Members of the Seimas expressed their position in the *Resolution on the Situation in the Republic of Belarus Following the Falsified Presidential Elections*.

'In this Resolution, we support, above all, the self-determination of the Belarusian people. We do not accept the results of the election of 9 August 2020. We do not regard Alexander Lukashenko as the legitimate head of the Republic of Belarus. We call for new, transparent, democratic presidential and parliamentary elections. We suggest initiating a mediation mission. We call for individual sanctions to be imposed on all those who have falsified these elections and all those responsible for the violations of civil and human rights. We also invite the European Union to impose restrictive measures, including not only the entry ban, but also the freezing of funds for these persons. We ask for and offer support to Belarusian non-governmental organisations, provide them with asylum and respectively limit financial and other support to the state institutions of Belarus. We invite the European Union to discuss the situation in Belarus on the highest level and introduce the European Union's embargo on the electricity generated by the nuclear power plant in Astravyets,' Žygimantas Pavilionis, Member of the Seimas TS-LKD Political Group, briefly presented the Resolution.

'Recent developments represent not only a violation of human rights, but also a possible crime, which must be investigated and the perpetrators must be held accountable. It is a moment of truth for everyone, both for those who committed the crimes and for us who are following and assessing the situation, and we must remain high-principled in doing this. There is no doubt that sovereignty belongs to the Belarusian people, who also need our support. This is what we are going to do,' Linas Antanas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, said at the Seimas sitting.

The Resolution *On the Situation in the Republic of Belarus Following the Falsified Presidential Elections* was adopted by 120 votes in favour, none against and two abstentions.

At the sitting, Members of the Seimas were briefed about the current developments in the neighbouring country by the representatives of Belarusian civil society: Anatoly Liabedzka, former Chairman of the United Civil Party of Belarus (remotely); Vladimir Neklyayev, Coordinator of the Belarusian National Congress (remotely); Olga Karach, Head of the Belarusian human rights protection organisation *Our Home*; Pavel Marynich, Head of the

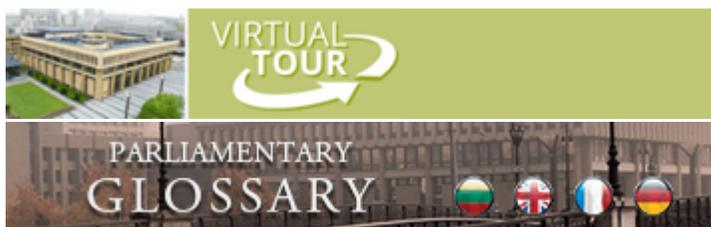
election monitoring project *Zubr* in Belarus, and Pavel Liber, Head of the unfalsified ballot counting project *Voice* (remotely).

*Photographs from the sitting (photographs by Olga Posaškova, Office of the Seimas).*

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