



## DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH BELARUS

### THE BUREAU

Mr Alexandr MILINKEVICH

303922 23.03.2006

Dear Mr Milinkevich,

Warmly remembering your visit to Brussels in the end of January, we would like to express our solidarity with you, with the united democratic forces in Belarus and with the Belarusian people, who are bravely and peacefully demonstrating in Minsk their strong belief in democracy and freedom.

We welcome the impressive peaceful demonstrations against the non democratic nature of the elections showing the desire of a large part of your society to restore democratic rights and political freedom in your country, thus revealing a huge democratic potential in Belarus. We would like to assure you that the European Parliament (EP) strongly supports the promise of democracy in Belarus and remains fully engaged in helping to bring about a democratic change.

First of all, the EP ad hoc delegation to the presidential elections in Belarus, which was refused entry to Belarus but closely followed the elections from Brussels issued a statement on 20 March, claiming that Mr. Lukashenko cannot be recognised as the legitimate president of Belarus, since the elections were neither fair nor democratic and therefore they should be repeated in full accordance with international norms.


Furthermore, the conduct of the elections was deplored by Parliament's President Joseph Borrell and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Elmar Brok. The Conference of Presidents of the Political Groups of the EP has also adopted an appeal asking to immediately release those Belarusian citizens who had been arrested or detained in Belarus. The European Parliament is closely following the ongoing arrests and will not remain silent while confronted with the breach of human rights on European soil.

The EP resolution on the outcome of the elections in Belarus is underway and today the Parliament held an urgent debate on Belarus and welcomed statements from the European Commission and the Council as to what concrete steps and measures the European Union (EU) can take in regard to promoting democratic change in Belarus. We have already proposed that the EU policy should centre on the isolation of the regime, but also on the extension of more support to the civil society of Belarus. We are glad that the Council and the Commission have accepted our proposals and that the EU speaks with one voice.

We once again salute the courage of the Belarus people and encourage you to further consolidate the democratic forces in Belarus. For our part, we pledge to consistently work towards putting the question of Belarus high on the list of key priorities of the European Union and the international community.

Yours sincerely,

  
Bogdan KLICH  
Chairman

  
Aldis KUSKIS  
1st Vice-Chairman

  
Joseph MUSCAT  
2nd Vice-Chairman