



Doc. 12295

19 June 2010

Manipulation of the final outcome of the 2006 presidential election in Belarus

Reply to Written question¹: Written question No. 573 (Doc. 12015) and Written question No. 585 (Doc. 12244)

Committee of Ministers

Written Question No. 573 by Mr Omtzigt (Doc. 12015)

President Lukashenko of Belarus stated publicly that he ordered the manipulation of the final outcome of the presidential election in his country in 2006. He did this for “psychological reasons” (source: interview with president Lukashenko in Russia’s Izvestia newspaper on August 27, 2009).

President Lukashenko now revealed that the original outcome was a victory of his candidacy with 93% of votes cast and that he ordered to reduce his margin of victory substantially.

Elections should be free and fair and the counting process and publication of results should be fully transparent. The central electoral committee should verify and officially validate the final outcome of the presidential election.

The Council of Europe has opened a dialogue with the Belarus authorities. In this dialogue, the Council of Europe should uphold the values of democracy and the rule of law.

Mr Omtzigt,

To ask the Committee of Ministers,

1. Will the Committee of Ministers ask its Chairman to raise the lack of clarity surrounding the outcome of the 2006 presidential elections in Belarus and ask the Belarus authorities to publish the formal documentation concerning the final result of the counting of the votes in these elections and the officially validated outcome by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus? Will it ask the Belarus authorities to give the election result of each province both before and after the decision?
2. Will the Committee of Ministers ask the President of Belarus to publish the documentation concerning the decision making process on the final electoral outcome and the officially validated result of the 2006 presidential elections?
3. Will the Committee of Ministers send all the requested documents to the Parliamentary Assembly within three months?
4. What is the opinion of the Committee of Ministers on the comments by President Lukashenko concerning his own intervention for his re-election?
5. With these documents in hand, does the Committee of Ministers accept the integrity of the final outcome of the 2006 presidential election and consider the published result as a valid result and reflection of the free will of the Belarus people?

1. adopted at the 1088th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (16 June 2010)



Written Question No. 585 by Mr Omtzigt ([Doc. 12244](#))

The people of Belarus have a right to know whether European countries consider the elections in Belarus as free and fair and have a right to see the documentation regarding these elections. That is why question 573 to the Committee of Ministers ([Doc. 12015](#)) hereunder was tabled in September 2009:

"1. Will the Committee of Ministers ask its Chairman to raise the lack of clarity surrounding the outcome of the 2006 presidential elections in Belarus and ask the Belarus authorities to publish the formal documentation concerning the final result of the counting of the votes in these elections and the officially validated outcome by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus? Will it ask the Belarus authorities to give the election result of each province both before and after the decision?"

2. Will the Committee of Ministers ask the President of Belarus to publish the documentation concerning the decision making process on the final electoral outcome and the officially validated result of the 2006 presidential elections?"

3. Will the Committee of Ministers send all the requested documents to the Parliamentary Assembly within three months?"

4. What is the opinion of the Committee of Ministers on the comments by President Lukashenko concerning his own intervention for his re-election?"

5. With these documents in hand, does the Committee of Ministers accept the integrity of the final outcome of the 2006 presidential election and consider the published result as a valid result and reflection of the free will of the Belarus people?"

As of yet, these questions only appear to have been discussed in the 1067th meeting of the Ministers Deputies on 7 October 2009 and no answer has yet been given. Yet, the next presidential elections in 2011 approach fast and we still do not know whether the last elections in March 2006 were free and fair."

Mr Omtzigt,

To ask the Committee of Ministers,

1. How many Committee of Ministers meetings have taken place since September 2009, how many times Belarus has been discussed and whether ever a draft answer to these questions has been discussed.
2. How many meetings between officials of the Council of Europe and Belarus have taken place and at which of these meetings the election results of 2006 and its documentation have been discussed and asked for.
3. Whether it intends to answer these questions and question No. 573 before the next part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly (21-25 June 2010).

Joint reply by the Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers recalls that in its reply of April 2006 to Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 1734 \(2006\)](#) on "The situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential elections", it condemned the methods applied by the Belarusian authorities to falsify the results of these elections, held in March 2006, and regretted that the whole process of these elections in Belarus "cannot be considered as complying with democratic electoral standards [...] and that the official results do not reflect the will of the people of Belarus." In itself, this evaluation responds to the questions asked by the Honourable Parliamentarian.

2. Since the adoption of this reply, the Committee of Ministers has continued to follow closely the situation in Belarus, particularly through the work of its Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM), where the issue is regularly on the agenda. The attention of the Honourable Parliamentarian is drawn to the regular information provided on this matter in the context of the communications of the successive Chairs of the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly sessions, as well as to the detailed reply addressed by the Committee of Ministers on 13 January 2010 to Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 1874 \(2009\)](#) on the "Situation in Belarus".

3. As it underlined in its reply to [Recommendation 1734 \(2006\)](#), the Committee of Ministers considers that "in order to bring Belarus closer to the international community and the Council of Europe, it is evident that there must be adherence to democratic standards and the human rights situation must improve. One of the keys to achieving that are internationally recognised free and fair elections."

4. While attending the swearing-in ceremony for the new President of Ukraine, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers at the time, Ms Calmy-Rey, met the President of Belarus on 25 February 2010. On this occasion, Ms Calmy-Rey emphasised that a closer relationship between the Council of Europe and Belarus meant that this country would have to respect the Organisation's fundamental values, including the correct holding of elections.