Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Call for an inclusive national political process in Belarus

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Dame Cheryl GILLAN and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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The Parliamentary Assembly has been following the situation in Belarus since 1992 when the Belarus National Assembly was granted special guest status. Due to a lack of democratic progress, this status was suspended in 1997 and the accession process, initiated in 1993, was subsequently frozen. However, the Assembly kept the doors for dialogue open.

While pursuing such dialogue with representatives of the Belarusian National Assembly, opposition forces and civil society alike, the Assembly has repeatedly expressed strong concerns about the lack of fundamental freedoms, including media freedom, human rights violations, the situation of political prisoners and lack of a level playing field in the electoral process, and has resolutely condemned the continued use of capital punishment.

The events that have unfolded following the presidential election of 9 August 2020, including the disproportionate use of force and widespread detentions of peaceful protesters, confirm the need for substantial reforms to bring Belarus's legislation, institutions and practices in line with international democratic and human rights standards.

The Assembly recalls that the Organisation's objective remains the rapprochement and accession of Belarus to the Council of Europe on the basis of its values and principles. The Council of Europe has the standards and co-operation tools to achieve this objective, including through its Venice Commission to which Belarus is an associate member.

The Assembly therefore resolves to continue to follow closely the situation in Belarus and reaffirms its readiness to engage in an inclusive and constructive dialogue with the Belarusian authorities, all political stakeholders and civil society, with a view to supporting – both politically and in terms of expertise – a peaceful and democratic national political process in the country leading to fundamental reforms, starting with the Constitution, and paving the way for ultimately integrating Belarus into the European family where it belongs.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

GILLAN Cheryl, United Kingdom, EC/DA
BACH Bela, Germany, SOC
BAKER Duncan, United Kingdom, EC/DA
BAKOYANNIS Theodora, Greece, EPP/CD
BALFE Richard, United Kingdom, NR
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BLENCATHRA David, United Kingdom, EC/DA
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC
BRENNER Koloman, Hungary, NR
BRYANT Chris, United Kingdom, SOC
ÇEVİKÖZ Ahmet Ünal, Turkey, SOC
CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios, Greece, EPP/CD
DUDÁS Róbert, Hungary, NR
EMRE Yunus, Turkey, SOC
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC
FASSINO Piero, Italy, SOC
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC/DA
GENTVILAS Simonas, Lithuania, ALDE
GRIFFITHS Leslie, United Kingdom, SOC
GUTIÉRREZ Antonio, Spain, SOC
HAMMARBERG Thomas, Sweden, SOC
HARDT Jürgen, Germany, EPP/CD
JENSEN Gyde, Germany, ALDE
JURATOVIC Josip, Germany, SOC
KARAMANLI Marietta, France, SOC
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KRISPER Stephanie, Austria, ALDE
LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian, United Kingdom, EC/DA
LLOYD Tony, United Kingdom, SOC
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
MAIRE Jacques, France, ALDE
MEREZHKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, SOC
NÉMETH Zsolt, Hungary, EPP/CD
NICK Andreas, Germany, EPP/CD
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
SAYEK BÖKE Selin, Turkey, SOC
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
ŚMISZEK Krzysztof, Poland, SOC
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TRISSE Nicole, France, ALDE
VALLINI André, France, SOC
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA
WONNER Martine, France, ALDE
YASKO Yelyzaveta, Ukraine, EPP/CD

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group