



**President of the European Parliament David Sassoli**

Brussels, 12 March 2021

Dear President David Sassoli,

We are reaching out to you with a request for the European Parliament's reaction to the continuous harassment and expulsion of European diplomats from Belarus.

Six months of peaceful protests in Belarus have been marked by violence, intimidation, harassment and persecution by the Lukashenka regime. Over 33 000 Belarusian people were arrested, more than 1 800 tortured and 9 killed. Around 500 journalists were arrested, ten remain imprisoned, and the list of political prisoners currently contains 269 individuals. The EU and its Member States have become a target of regime's propaganda, which is reinforced by propaganda experts from Russia.

In October 2020, the Lukashenka regime ordered two EU Member States, Lithuania and Poland, to reduce their diplomatic staff at their Embassies in Belarus. In response, several EU Member States and the United Kingdom recalled their ambassadors from Minsk. The most recent attack on European diplomats took place this week when another Polish diplomat was expelled from the Polish consulate in Brest.

We call upon you to initiate an appropriate the European Parliament's response by restricting the access to the European Parliament for the staff of the Embassy of Belarus in Brussels. The number of Belarusian Embassy officials able to access physically or remotely meetings hosted by the European Parliament should be limited. Moreover, communication with the Embassy of Belarus should be reviewed.

We ask you to impose these symbolic but important measures as a sign of support to European diplomats, who are being targeted as a part of anti-European propaganda campaign in Belarus, and as a sign of solidarity with democratic opposition of Belarus.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius, Renew Europe, Lithuania  
Robert Biedroń, S&D, Poland  
Maria Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Renew Europe, Spain  
Raphaël Glucksmann, S&D, France  
Anna Fotyga, ECR, Poland  
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