



Resolution on supporting Belarusian oppositionists

With regards to

This year Europe celebration of the twentieth anniversary of democratic breakthrough in the East

To the recent decision of European Union to include Belarus in the Eastern Partnership initiative

YEPP would like to expressing our joy and pride and urge that we should not forget about those, who still cannot live in freedom and democracy.

YEPP is deeply concerned with the fact of absence of democratic reforms in Belarus and continuing persecution of democratic opposition by administration of president Lukashenka. Therefore, we treat as our duty to declare solidarity with those who suffer.

Many of us with hope, but also uncertainty, accepted recent thaw in relations with European Union declared by president Lukashenka, who at the same time was supposed stop repressions of the opposition leaders. Now we know the expectations were not met – the results of the last parliamentary elections were not recognized by the OSCE/ODIHR and therefore confirmed ill will of the regime to change its *modus operandi* towards democratic movements.

YEPP expresses its strong disappointment that despite some minor cosmetic changes, terrible actions were undertaken by Belarusian authorities: forcible army conscription, arrests of young activists for political reasons, restrictions in the freedom of expression and in the freedom of association. It is extremely concerned with the arrests of Belarusian youth opposition

leaders, such as Franak Viacorka, Ivan Shyla, Ales Kalita They were unlawfully detained, beaten and forced into the army by Belarusian militia. Hence the regime once again has showed its methods of controlling the state are illegal and inhuman.

YEPP calls for support for our Friends from Belarus and exhorts the European Union to condemn Belarusian regime for the continuing violation of human rights standards and to reconsider the EU attitude towards the Lukashenka regime.

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