



**YEPP Resolution:  
"Freedom and Democracy for Belarus!"**

**Recognizing that:**

- the recent presidential elections in Belarus of 19 December 2010 had fallen far short of every standard for free elections.
- independent OSCE election observers stated that the conduct of the elections and the ballot counting had been "bad to very bad".
- representatives oppositional parties were not included in electoral commissions and there had been irregularities in almost half the polling stations.
- 7 out of 9 unsuccessful presidential candidates were imprisoned after the demonstration and accused in the criminal case upon Article 293, parts 1 and 2 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus, 'mass riot'.
- over 50 persons are accused and/or suspected of 'mass riot' and most of them are imprisoned in KGB and not even allowed to see their lawyers. That list includes Nasta Palazhanka, Deputy Chairperson of YEPP permanent observer Young Front, and Anatol Liabedzka, Chairperson of EPP observer United Civil Party of Belarus. All of them are now facing 5-15 years imprisonment.
- two more members of Young Front Dzmitser Dashkevich and Eduard Lobau were abducted by unidentified men and are now facing 3-10 years imprisonment.
- demonstrations have been brutally suppressed by police forces.
- Belarus is the only state in Europe that retains the death penalty.
- Belarus has unilaterally taken the decision to close down the OSCE office in Minsk prior to the fulfillment of its tasks.

**Acknowledging that:**

- the loosening of the EU sanctions did not have an effect on the democratic process in Belarus.
- Presidential oppositional candidates were beaten up, dragged away and detained.
- summary trials produced sentences without any factual basis.
- About 700 political activists were arrested - among them young activists from Malady Front and YCSU YD - political prisoners have again become the reality.
- Belarusian young people are the driving force for a prosperous, free and democratic Belarus.
- the Council of Europe has terminated the membership of Belarus in 1997.

- the Venice Commission of the CoE stated about the regime in Belarus it “does not respect a minimum of democratic standards and thus violates the principles of separation of powers and the rule of law”.
- the EU introduced sanctions after a disputed ballot already in 2006.
- YEPP has followed developments in Belarus in the past years attentively encouraging youth NGO and opposition activists to stand up for democracy and human rights.

**YEPP calls on:**

- the Belarusian authorities to immediately release the political prisoners.
- the Belarusian authorities to respect human rights, democratic standards and the rule of law.
- the EPP and its member parties to condemn the prosecution and/or the imprisonment of following presidential candidates: Andrej Sannikov, Vitaly Rymasheuski, Uladzimir Niaklyaeu, Ales Michalevich, Ryhor Kastuseu, Mikola Statkevich and Dzmitry Uss.
- the EPP and its member parties to condemn the imprisonment of Dzmitser Dashkevich and Eduard Lobau, who were imprisoned even before the Election Day.
- the EPP and its member parties to condemn the imprisonment of Anastasia Palazhanka as well as other young political prisoners.
- the release of all other political prisoners of the regime.
- the EU to freeze high level meetings unless they are about the release of the political prisoners.
- the EU and its member states to increase the financial aid and scholarships for Belarusian students especially those which have been expelled for political reasons.
- the EU to remove the visa fees for all Belarusian citizens, especially youngsters and students.
- the EU not to trade financial support to the Belarusian regime with the release of political prisoners.
- International organisations and NGOs not to invite officials of Belarus state, ministers, or pro-Lukashenko youth organisation BRSM (ex- Komsomol).
- Make sure that support for creation of civil society, oppositional parties and free media would have a long-term strategy and coordinated among the donors.
- Ministries of Sports and national sport federations of the EU member-states not to participate in any amateur or professional sport events held in Belarus, namely boycott the IIHF World Championship that is going to take place in Belarus in 2014.
- the EU and its member states to stop addressing mr. Lukashenko as a President of Belarus.

*Adopted by the YEPP Council in Caserta on February 5, 2011.*