



## **Upcoming Presidential Elections in Belarus**

### **Resolution**

The Youth of European Peoples Party (YEPP) is concerned about the current political situation in the Republic of Belarus and calls for democratic presidential elections which are scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.

YEPP is concerned about:

- fraud of electoral results in the past;
- permanent restrictions on the work of political opposition and the imprisonment of political activists in Belarus;
- the tightening of the Criminal Code of Belarus approved on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, which, among other things, legitimates the punishment and imprisonment of members and supporters of non-registered public initiatives and of critics of the political, economical, social, military or international situation in the Republic of Belarus abroad;
- unfair restrictions that apply for youth of political parties and NGOs that are actively engaged in the political activities such as refusing to register and cancellation of registration.

YEPP calls Belarusian authorities to:

- comply with the standards of democratic elections as recognised by the OSCE and other international organisations;
- provide all the presidential candidates equal state media coverage during the campaign;
- refrain from any attempts to falsify the election's result;
- refrain from restrictions of the work of the opposition in the electoral campaign;
- reverse the amendments of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus of December 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- not to create artificial obstacles for politically active citizens of the Republic of Belarus who support opposition to cross Belarusian borders and not to interfere in their communication with their partners abroad.

YEPP calls the leaders of all European democracies and European Institutions to:

- support all those whose aim is to protect democracy in Belarus;
- actively monitor the election process and support the activities of local non-governmental organizations monitoring the elections;
- impose sanctions targeted at all those who attempt to derail the democratic election process or take active part in falsifying its results.

*Adopted resolution, YEPP Council, Czech Republic, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006*