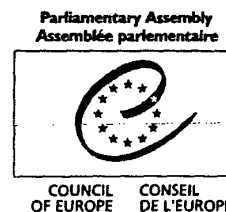


Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



AACR14AD3_2006

AS (2006) CR 14
Prov. Addendum 3

2006 ORDINARY SESSION

(Second part)

REPORT

Fourteenth sitting

Thursday 13 April at 10 a.m.

ADDENDUM 3

Belarus in the aftermath of the Presidential election of
19 March 2006

The following text was submitted for inclusion in the official report by a member who was present in the Chamber but was prevented by lack of time from delivering it.

Mr SKARGA (*Russian Federation*) – The election campaign we are talking about, started, went on and finished with numerous mutual accusations between the Belarus authorities and the external world.

As we can see, the mutual blaming policy has proved to be counter-productive. Elections have taken place, but without the majority of European observers. The opposition has participated, but the results demonstrate its weakness. However, its weakness is in dispute. The reasons, I think, are in calls from outside, which have been considered by the Belarus authorities as calls for a colour revolution. For the sake of the truth I should admit that the threat of the revolution existed in reality. I am not pretending to be a lawyer for Belarus leaders, but it is worth mentioning that in post-Soviet territory all revolutions have been accompanied partly with cruelty, political and economical instability and have been followed by splitting in the opposition camp.

Possibly the authorities of Belarus overreacted to that outside move by the tough treatment of part of the opposition – I stress the word “part” – and by preventing European observers from participating in the election process.

But a scalded cat fears cold water. Despite the disadvantages of those elections there are some positive things: first, alternative candidates participated, secondly, there was a high level of population involvement, and, thirdly, there was a big gap in votes among the leader and outsiders.

Obviously, the Assembly should act, but in that complicated situation it should act with a long-lasting positive effect.

This action, which is important, should be accepted and understood by our counterparts and should not be recognised as the repeated signal of a colour revolution, or as hostile pressure.

Sanctions and isolations will not help to convince. They are not appropriate methods. The temperature of the situation is high enough and there is no need to pour oil on to the fire. To achieve the main goal – the democratisation of Belarus – I suggest applying a “no blame” approach for a certain period of time. This would allow us to find the right approach to help Belarus to return to the rails of democracy.