



SC (11) SI 8 E
Original: ENGLISH

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM

DRAFT RESOLUTION

ON

“BELARUS”

**Principal Sponsor
Ms. Uta Zapf
Germany**

BELGRADE, 6 JULY TO 10 JULY 2011

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Belarus

Principal Sponsor: Ms. Uta Zapf (Germany)

1. Keeping in mind the resolutions adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) at its Annual Sessions in 1999 (St. Petersburg), 2000 (Bucharest), 2002 (Berlin) and 2003 (Rotterdam), the report and resolution of 2007 (Kyiv) and the Joint Declaration of the OSCE Working Group on Belarus and the delegation from the Belarusian National Assembly on future cooperation signed in 2004 (Edinburgh),
2. Noting with great disappointment that all efforts to hold a fruitful dialogue and to make progress in the fulfilment of OSCE commitments, which were reaffirmed at the Astana Summit in December 2010 and signed by President Lukashenko, have failed,
3. Deploring that the presidential elections in December 2010 were again not free and fair,
4. Appalled by the brutal suppression of the protest demonstrations on 19 December 2010, in the course of which more than 600 people were detained, including several presidential candidates and their campaign managers,
5. Expressing its disappointment and lack of understanding that these persons are being charged with mass disturbances and risk being sentenced to up to 15 years' imprisonment,
6. Appalled by the unjustified prison sentences which have already been imposed on some demonstration participants,
7. Welcoming the fact that the OSCE/ODIHR has been granted permission to observe the trials,
8. Expressing deep regret that a fact-finding mission by the OSCE PA Working Group on Belarus has been rejected by Belarus,
9. Expressing deep regret that the Chair of the Working Group was refused a visa to observe the trials,
10. Expressing regret that Belarus has closed the OSCE Office in Minsk, and calling for this decision to be reconsidered in order to continue the promised cooperation with the OSCE,
11. Deeply dismayed that even small civil protests, for example, against rises in petrol prices, are resulting in arrests,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Calls for clarification of the facts surrounding statements by detainees who have fled abroad that the detainees in KGB prisons have been subjected to degrading treatment

and torture, and demands an independent, international investigation of these accusations;

13. Calls on Belarus to allow the independent expert appointed by the OSCE after the Moscow Mechanism was invoked to enter Belarus and take up and carry out his work unhindered;
14. Calls for the release of all persons detained in connection with the demonstration, who must be considered political prisoners;
15. Expects, where this does not happen, prisoners to receive unimpeded access to legal counsel, to be permitted visits from their families and friends, and to receive medical care;
16. Calls, in this context, in particular for Belarus to cooperate closely with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to resolve problems concerning the threatened closure of independent media outlets and to develop a media law reflecting the spirit of the OSCE principles;
17. Expects there to be no repeat of acts of repression against human-rights activists, and instead expects all institutions of the Belarusian administration to comply strictly with the principles, to which Belarus is also a signatory, of the OSCE and of the human rights conventions;
18. Expects peaceful demonstrations and assemblies not to be banned in future;
19. Calls on the authorities to end the persecution, intimidation and repression of members of opposition political parties via the loss of jobs and university places;
20. Deplores the repression of non-governmental organisations and calls for a simplified registration process for these civil-society groups;
21. Offers an outstretched hand for a renewed dialogue with Belarus in order to support Belarus in taking its place in a democratic and free Europe under the rule of law.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the DRAFT RESOLUTION

on

“BELARUS”

[Set out text of Amendment here:]

Principal Sponsor:

Mr/Mrs	Family Name in Capital Letters	Country	Signature

Co-sponsored by:

Mr/Mrs	Family Name in Capital Letters	Country	Signature