



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO PIRMININKAS
SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

H.E. Mr David Maria Sassoli
President of the European Parliament

Vilnius, 24 August 2020

H.E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Heads of Parliaments of the EU Member States
and NATO Member Countries

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to you on the situation in the Republic of Belarus following the falsified presidential election that took place on 9 August 2020. No international organisation has recognised the parliamentary or presidential elections held so far in Belarus as free and fair. Immediately after 9 August 2020, peaceful protests by the Belarusian population were suppressed with brutal force, and thousands of protesters have been detained and injured. It is most distressing, but there are also victims among peaceful protesters.

In recent decades, the Belarusian authorities have been constantly restricting the freedoms and rights of expression and democracy in the country, while representatives of the opposition have been regularly arrested or otherwise persecuted.

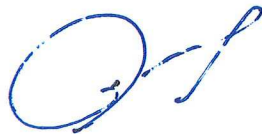
I am sending to your attention the *Resolution on the Situation in Belarus following the Falsified Presidential Elections* adopted at the sitting of the extraordinary session of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 18 August 2020 held to discuss the situation in Belarus.

We invite you to fully support the determination of the Belarusian people to shape their country's future in accordance with the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights and to demand new, transparent, and democratic presidential and parliamentary elections. We call for the immediate release of all the imprisoned representatives of the opposition and of civil society, and to ensure the freedom of the press and assembly and other political and civil liberties in Belarus. We also call for sanctions to be imposed on Belarusian officials who are responsible for or have contributed to the falsification of the results of the presidential election of the Republic of Belarus and the violations of civil and human rights in Belarus.

Belarus needs more than ever the support of the international community today. The current democratic movement in Belarus is becoming truly united, so let us also be united on Belarus.

Your sincerely,

Viktoras Pranckietis
Speaker of the Seimas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'V' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.