

Dear colleagues,

Yesterday's heavily falsifications in so-called elections in Belarus, violence, arbitrary arrests and detention of the protesters must be the last straw for the European Union. Time for "concerns" and "regrets" is over.

Yesterday's elections clearly showed that Belarus do not have a legitimate President. Alexander Lukashenko lost the elections and is trying to hold the power on brutal force. Belarus authorities must pay adequate price for such a behavior.

For the last 26 years, we are seeing continuous suppression of the rights to freedom of expression, disappearance of the opposition politicians, falsification of the votes and violence against the protestors.

Sanctions against Belarusian officials and companies involved in compromising human and democratic rights in the course of the election campaign is a necessary step. Concrete demands from European Union must follow - new free and fair elections and freedom to political prisoners.

Until this is done, Belarus authorities must not receive any financial assist, only direct support for civic organizations, communities and business, with no possibility for illegitimate authorities to participate in the distribution of the support.

Actions of Belarus authorities is opposite to all the EPP stands for. The time has come to show that we firmly stand by our values.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Ingrida Šimonytė Candidate for Prime Minister of Lithuania

Gabrielius Landsbergis Chair of the Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats