



President of the European Council, Charles Michel
President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

Copy to:

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell

European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi

Brussels, 4 September 2020

Dear President Charles Michel,
Dear President Ursula von der Leyen,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are writing to express our deep concern about the intention not to include Aliaksandr Lukashenka's name among persons to be sanctioned over their role and responsibility for violence, repression, and election fraud in Belarus.

The Belarusian people, who for 26 years have been experiencing brutality of Lukashenka's regime, will not understand such a shameful behaviour of the EU. Every day we learn about the beating of peaceful protesters, unlawful arrests and violations of fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of speech, and human rights in Belarus. Aliaksandr Lukashenka, who publicly carries a gun and threatens to deal with peaceful protesters by force, is the main culprit of the election capture and violent crackdown against the protesters, including minors. There are no reasons why he should not be on the EU sanctions list along persons enabling the brutality of his authoritarian regime.

We urge you to follow the example of the Baltic states, who already imposed sanctions against Aliaksandr Lukashenka and 29 other Belarusian officials. The list includes the chief of staff of Lukashenka's administration, a son of Lukashenka, who acts as his advisor for national security, the leadership and members of the Central Election Commission, the leadership of the State Security Committee (KGB), the Prosecutor General, the Minister of Interior and his subordinates, among others.

We call upon you to expand the list by including Natalia Eismont, the spokesperson of Lukashenka, servants of the Belarusian national media responsible for the massive propaganda campaigns, middle and entry level officials at the Central Election Commission and the law enforcement services. The sanctions list has to include not only the central level, but also the regional level officials responsible for violence, repression, and election fraud in Belarus, as well as their family members.

Sanctions are among most visible and effective methods to condemn the criminal actions of the Lukashenka's regime and to underline the importance of an urgent inclusive national dialogue to solve the crisis.

The EU has already expressed its support to the Belarusian people, now it is time to show our solidarity by action, which must include sanctions against Aliaksandr Lukashenka, his family and the enablers of his regime.

Sincerely,

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Anna Fotyga, ECR, Poland
Guy Verhofstadt, Renew Europe, Belgium
Jerzy Buzek, EPP, Poland
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