

Lithuanian Social Democratic Party

Dear comrades,

First of all, I hope that all of you are in good physical and psychological health. These times are challenging and difficult – therefore the need of socialist ideals of solidarity today is very high.

People of Belarus are fighting the fight of their lives against a dictator who is killing and suffocating them. As the reports show the Internet in Belarus is being turned off regularly, OMON, special police units, are snatching protesters off the streets, imprisoning opposition politicians and activists and carrying out other atrocities incompatible with human rights, democratic ideals, and basic human dignity.

We, Lithuanian Social Democrats, have called on the chairperson of Parliamentary National Security and Defence Committee to convene a sitting on Belarus and:

- Evaluate the information of Intelligence agencies on the events in Belarus.
- Discuss the solutions how the violence against peaceful protesters can be stopped including political sanctions on people responsible for human rights violations and use of force.
- Expand on how we can help people who are persecuted because of their pro-democracy activism.

The time for words is over. The regime of Alexander Lukashenko must be held responsible for its actions. That is why we also have called on the chair of Parliament to convene an extraordinary session dedicated to the situation in Belarus during which we will propose to vote on a resolution to European Parliament which would:

- Condemn the violations of human rights by the regime of A. Lukashenko and the use of force.
- Propose the outlines of political sanctions on people responsible for the current situation, including but not limited to prohibition to enter the EU, freezing the funds and assets located in the EU. This way we would avoid punishing the people of Belarus and would punish the ones responsible.
- Establish the rules under which political refugees could receive aid.

We also, and I personally, call on all of PES family to oppose the current regime in Belarus and to not recognize the results of this false election. We need to put pressure on A. Lukashenko and show to people of Belarus – who are fighting right now at this very moment – that Europe and socialists of Europe are on their side. On the side of democracy, freedom, and human rights.

In solidarity,

Lukas Vaigauskas

LSDP International Secretary

