Basic information

2004/2593(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the political situation in Belarus after the parliamentary elections and referendum of 17 October 2004 **Subject** 6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts **Geographical area** Belarus	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2622	2004-11-22

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/10/2004	Debate in Parliament		
28/10/2004	Decision by Parliament	T6-0045/2004	Summary
28/10/2004	Results of vote in Parliament		
28/10/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/11/2004	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/2593(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Motion for a resolution		B6-0094/2004	27/10/2004	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0097/2004	27/10/2004	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0101/2004	27/10/2004	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0104/2004	27/10/2004	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0110/2004	27/10/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0045/2004 OJ C 174 14.07.2005, p. 0064-0181 E	28/10/2004	Summary

Resolution on the political situation in Belarus after the parliamentary elections and referendum of 17 October 2004

2004/2593(RSP) - 28/10/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted by 449 votes to 20 with 22 abstentions a resolution on the political situation in Belarus after the parliamentary elections and referendum of 17 October 2004.

The resolution had been tabled by the PES, EPP-ED, Greens/ALE, UEN and ALDE groups.

It stresses that the parliamentary elections and referendum failed to meet international standards for democratic elections and therefore **cannot be considered free and fair**. Accordingly, Parliament believes that the parliament elected in Belarus does not possess a true democratic mandate to represent the Belarussian people, and it does not recognise the legitimacy of the referendum. Members do not believe that President Aleksander Lukashenko has a constitutional basis on which to stand as a candidate in the elections of 2006.

They strongly condemn the violent attacks committed by the Belarussian regime against students, leading opposition figures and journalists following peaceful political demonstrations in Minsk, and urge the Belarussian authorities immediately to release all those who were detained after these demonstrations.

Parliament expresses its conviction that the policy of the European Union towards Belarus after the referendum and the elections must be urgently reviewed in the light of these events and that appropriate changes must be implemented. It calls on the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States, as appropriate:

- to continue and wherever possible to reinforce their policy of isolation of President Lukashenko and the members of his regime until clear steps are taken which demonstrate their willingness to respect democratic values and the rule of law;
- to draw up an Action Plan for further ways to increase - together with other democratic countries and international institutions - support for all remaining democratic forces in Belarus and to assist more effectively those people in Belarussian civil society working for democratic change in Belarus, by reconsidering the EU financial instruments for that country;
- urgently to investigate the possibility of supporting neutral broadcasting to the citizens of Belarus and the creation of a special educational programme which would grant scholarships for young people and students from Belarus who would like to study in the European Union, and financial support for academic institutions that are prepared to host students from Belarus;
- to decide on a set of targeted sanctions against members of the Belarussian regime, including an expansion of the visa prohibition regulation for the authorities of Belarus, including those responsible for the serious election violations, together with increased material support through humanitarian and economic aid to the municipalities which oppose the regime.