

## Resolution on Belarus

On August 9, 2020, Belarus witnessed a sad and predictable sign of its President Alexandre Lukashenko clinging to the chair of power, where he has been for over 25 years. Given that the elections were neither free nor fair, the heads of state or government of the European Union (EU) rightly decided not to recognise the results of the presidential elections in Belarus. Unfortunately, in recent weeks, the peaceful demonstrations that followed the announcement of the results, confirming electoral fraud, have been contained by the Lukashenko regime through violence, illegal arrests and forced expulsions of Belarusian citizens to border countries.

In this context, the **IDC-CDI**:

- does not recognise Alexander Lukashenko as the legitimate president of Belarus;
- condemns the use of violence and other illegal practices by the Lukashenko regime against Belarusian citizens who, through peaceful protests, are demanding an end to the dictatorship and the establishment of a democratic system in the country;
- demands the release of political prisoners in Belarus, including the members of the Coordination Council set up by the opposition to initiate a peaceful transition to democracy in the country and the members of the Belarusian parties affiliated to the European People's Party
- supports the holding of new, free and fair presidential elections in Belarus as soon as possible, under extensive international observation;
- considers it absolutely right and necessary that the EU start imposing sanctions on a substantial number of people held liable for electoral fraud and violence;
- demands that Russia stop intervening in Belarus, supporting the maintenance of Lukashenko's despotic regime and to the detriment of the establishment of a democratic system in its neighbouring country;
- applauds the European Parliament for the initiative to nominate the Belarusian democratic opposition for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

Executive Committee Meeting videoconference 01/10/2020.