

Resolution on Alexey Navalny and the situation in Russia

In January 2021 Russia's leading Kremlin critic, Alexey Navalny, was detained by police in Moscow, moments after his return to the country and five months after he was poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok. The IDC-EDI cannot remain idle in the face of this and all other human rights violations committed by Russia.

The IDC-EDI:

1. Underlines that a vibrant civil society, political pluralism and political opposition are cornerstones of all democratic societies,
2. Underlines that the detainment and conviction of Alexey Navalny in a trial did not conform with the rule of law and calls on Russian authorities to immediately release him and to open an independent investigation on the attack on his life,
3. Strongly condemns violent detentions of peaceful protesters, the disabling of parts of the internet by Russian authorities and the disproportionate use of force by militia and special police,
4. Expects the Russian authorities to immediately release the detained individuals including Mr Navalny,
5. Strongly insists on sanctions against those responsible for the current situation,
6. Calls the EU to make full use of its new EU human rights sanctions mechanism, the so-called EU Magnitsky Act. It is important to hold accountable the judges who have made political verdicts and those responsible for the detention and repression of innocent citizens who used their constitutional right of freedom of expression,
7. Heavily criticizes Josep Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, travelling to Russia and holding a press conference with Russian Foreign Minister while the leading opposition politician Alexei Navalny is illegitimately detained,
8. Condemns the expulsion of EU-diplomats from Russia during the visit of the EU High Representative in Moscow the 05.02.2021.