

Condemning Belarusian changes to the death penalty law to target the opposition

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland, on 2-4 June 2022:

Notes that:

- on 18 May 2022, Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko and his government signed a law providing for the possibility of the death penalty for planning an attack, an act of sabotage or an attempted act of terrorism;
- until now, only those who were found guilty of committing such an act could face the death penalty;
- the law is yet another measure by Alexander Lukashenko and his government to intimidate and suppress opposition activists;
- Alexander Lukashenko and his government has arrested thousands of people and forced many opposition leaders and protesters into exile since the rigged presidential election in 2020;
- the new law is to enter into force by the end of May 2022;
- Belarus remains the only country in Europe that continues to carry out executions.

Calls for the ALDE Party and its member organisations, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and European states to:

- recognise that Alexander Lukashenko is a dictator who threatens the peace and stability of the entirety of Europe;
- continue to strongly condemn Alexander Lukashenko and his government for persecuting political opponents and falsely accusing them of terrorism;
- continue to strongly condemn Alexander Lukashenko and his government for using the death penalty as an instrument to eliminate political opponents;
- put into force even stronger sanctions and economic pressure on Alexander Lukashenko, his government, and other Belarusian lawmakers, and to consider any tools to prevent the political killings;
- to continue to put diplomatic and economic pressure and impose further sanctions on the Belarusian government, to free politicians who are only imprisoned due to their opposition to Alexander Lukashenko. Additionally, these sanctions must be focused upon the inner circle of power and the businesses that directly and indirectly support and endorse the brutal regime.

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- support Belarusian opposition politicians – both in exile and within Belarus – by any means necessary in their fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus.

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