

STATEMENT

OF THE SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

On the protection of the interests of the people of Belarus and the condemnation of the consolidation of power by Lukashenko's regime

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

with reference to

- the Statement of 19 January 2011 on the Situation in Belarus issued by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima,
- and the Statement of the Saeima of 18 August 2020 on the Presidential Election in Belarus,
- the Statement of 1 October 2020 on the legitimacy of the mandate claimed by the president of Belarus,
- the Statement of 27 May 2021 on the forced landing of flight FR4978 in Minsk, capital of Belarus,
- the Statement of 17 November 2022 on declining to form groups for promoting cooperation with the parliaments of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus,
- the Statement of 21 December 2023 on the return of illegally displaced Ukrainian children from the territories of Russia and Belarus to Ukraine,
- the Statement of 27 March 2024 on measures to suspend economic relations between Latvia and the aggressor states – Russia and Belarus;

reiterating its condemnation of the authorities of Belarus for disregarding the principles of democracy and the rule of law, oppressing its citizens, and refusing to recognise Aleksandr Lukashenko as the legitimately elected president of Belarus;

recalling the continuous persecution of civic society by the governing regime of Belarus through torture and arbitrary incarceration of thousands of civilians, forcing many to flee the country to escape repression

noting that the so-called presidential elections scheduled for 26 January 2025 cannot be considered free and fair, as they will take place in the absence of international observers, under total suppression of the opposition, the elimination of independent media, and intensified repression, depriving the people of Belarus of any possibility to express their political will freely;

emphasising that Aleksandr Lukashenko, leader of the Belarusian regime, has lost all legitimacy since 2020 and that these so-called elections are merely a symbolic ritual intended to maintain the regime's power;

does not recognise the presidential election in Belarus scheduled for 26 January 2025 as legitimate;

condemns the systematic human rights violations by the Belarusian regime, including the destruction of independent media, suppression of the opposition and inhumane treatment of political prisoners;

*demand*s the authorities of Belarus to immediately release all political prisoners, stop repressions and comply with international commitments regarding the principles of human rights and democracy;

endorses the efforts of democratic forces and civil society in Belarus in their pursuit of a free, independent, and democratic state; and

urges the international community to reinforce sanctions against Lukashenko's regime and oppose any attempts to legitimise it within the international arena.