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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.11.2024)

The EU policy on Belarus is outlined in the Council conclusions of 19 February 2024¹ and 12 October 2020².

The EU has limited its engagement with the authorities to the bare minimum and has intensified cooperation with civil society and democratic forces. EU financial assistance has been recalibrated away from state authorities and towards non-state actors, with almost EUR 140 million committed since 2020 to support the people of Belarus. The EU has also focused on responding to the human rights situation and mobilising the international community, including as regards justice and accountability.

Since August 2020, the EU has adopted several rounds of restrictive measures against Belarus³ in response to the repression of civil society and democratic opposition, misconduct of the electoral process, the incitement and organisation of illegal border crossings, human rights violations, the diverting of a passenger flight, and the regime's involvement in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Commission, including the President herself, has been and remains very vocal in support of the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people, and in condemning the illegal actions of the regime. The EU will remain steadfast in its support for a democratic Belarus.

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6737-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/46076/council-conclusions-on-belarus.pdf>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02012D0642-20240228>