

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003856/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Thierry Mariani (PFE)
(2 October 2025)

Subject: Resumption of diplomatic relations with Belarus

Since 2020, relations between the EU and Belarus have deteriorated sharply, with reduced diplomatic contacts and increased sanctions against Belarus.

However, several recent developments seem to indicate a willingness on the part of the Belarusian authorities to re-engage with Europe:

- in 2025, Belarus released around a hundred prisoners, including the former 2020 presidential election candidate Sergei Tikhanovsky;
 - EU citizens now benefit from a visa-free regime, which facilitates exchanges and contacts between citizens;
 - geopolitically, Belarus has reaffirmed its neutrality in the conflict in Ukraine and cooperated with its neighbours in a recent incident involving drones that violated Polish airspace. Belarus warned Poland and Lithuania and intercepted certain devices.
1. Does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy believe that these moves can provide a basis for reviewing the current EU policy towards Belarus?
 2. Does she envisage defining clear and gradual conditions for a progressive resumption of diplomatic relations with Belarus?

Submitted: 2.10.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(25 November 2025)

The EU's position towards Belarus remains guided by the Council Conclusions of October 2020 ⁽¹⁾ and February 2024 ⁽²⁾. Following the fraudulent 2020 elections and the subsequent widespread repression, the Belarusian authorities have persistently violated human rights and silenced the opposition, civil society, and independent media. Moreover, Belarus has maintained its support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The recent releases of political prisoners are a welcome development noted by the High Representative/Vice-President but do not signal genuine change, as over 1 200 political prisoners remain unjustly detained.

The EU continues to call on Belarus to release all political prisoners and to end repression against the people of Belarus. The regime must repeal repressive laws and stop politically motivated prosecutions and arbitrary arrests.

The Belarusian regime continues to support Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine politically, militarily, and economically, including through sanctions evasion. The EU is also facing hybrid attacks at its borders ⁽³⁾, including the instrumentalisation of migrants by the Belarusian regime.

Since 2020, the EU has mobilised EUR 170 million to support the Belarusian people, including political prisoners, independent journalists, and civil society, while fostering people-to-people contacts through educational, cultural and professional development initiatives. A Comprehensive Plan of Economic Support of up to EUR 3 billion remains available once Belarus embarks on a democratic path.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/46076/council-conclusions-on-belarus.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6737-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/10/29/statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-belarus-hybrid-actions-at-the-eu-external-border/>.