

EPP RESOLUTIONS ON BELARUS & ON TERRORISM

23-03-2006



The European People's Party (EPP) leaders approved today the following resolutions in Meise (Belgium):

RESOLUTION ON BELARUS

The European People's Party:

appeals to the European Council, the EU institutions and its Member States not to recognize the outcome of the Belarusian elections of March 19, 2006 as valid. The elections did not respect the international democratic standards and were carried out in the constant atmosphere of fear, violence and intimidation. The regime has proven its totalitarian character through the lack of respect of fundamental rights,

- *stresses that Alexander Milinkevich, the opposition candidate, is always welcome to participate in any of the meetings of the party and calls on the European Council to make a similar statement in this regard,*
- *is shocked that the repression was used against the protesters including the representatives of the EPP sister parties – United Civic Party and Belarusian Popular Front – and is seriously concerned by the fact that the leaders of both parties were detained together with more than two hundred demonstrators,*
- *expresses solidarity with the Belarusian people fighting for their freedom in Minsk and other cities and calls upon the Belarusian authorities to immediately release all people detained due to their political activities including the political leaders of the sister parties of the EPP,*
- *calls upon the EU Member States as well as the European institutions to maintain the support towards the Belarusian NGOs and opposition political parties,*
- *states that there is no other possible way for restoring democracy in Belarus other than holding new, truly democratic elections,*
- *urges the Belarusian authorities to stop any violent actions against the demonstrators. The independent media should be allowed to freely report on the events and their security must be guaranteed.*

RESOLUTION ON TERRORISM

The European People's Party (EPP) considers that the announcement of the cease-fire by the terrorist organization ETA opens a new scenario that has to be confirmed by the decisions that are expected from this organization: unconditional delivery of weapons, the dissolution of the organization, the commitment to end the violence and intimidation and to ask for the pardon of the victims.

The EPP recalls that paying any political price for the terrorists to abandon their violent actions is not acceptable.

The EPP reaffirms its confidence that the scourge of terrorism will be defeated through the State of Law.

The EPP recalls its support during the last years for significant measures to fight terrorism from the European Union (EU) and confirms its commitment to keep this approach in the future.

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