

## **Statement of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu**

### **Dictator of Belarus is Organising a Farce and Not Elections**

Aleksandr Lukashenka, who has been governing Belarus with the support of the Russian regime for the past 30 years, is organising another election farce on 26 January in an attempt to embellish his dictatorial regime with a false mask of democracy, all the while repressing human and civil rights.

Recalling the 25 August 2020 statement of the Riigikogu, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu also refuses to recognise these so-called elections, which take place under the strict control of the regime, and calls on organising free and democratic presidential elections in Belarus at the first opportunity under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organisations.

The Foreign Affairs Committee calls on the international community to exert pressure on the Belarus regime to put an end to the repressions and to free the people imprisoned for expressing their views. According to the Viasna Human Rights Centre, 1,254 political prisoners are currently illegally detained because of their political views.

The Foreign Affairs Committee supports the statements of the European Parliament, OSCE, and several national parliaments and governments of the European Union Member States on condemning the organisation of sham elections in a repressive and intimidating atmosphere and in violation of all international legal provisions.

The Foreign Affairs Committee expresses its support to the people of Belarus in its fight for a free, democratic, and dignified future, and calls on continuing active international cooperation on all levels to support democracy, civil society, and free press in Belarus.

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