



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 143rd IPU Assembly

Madrid, Spain  
26-30 November 2021



Assembly  
Item 2

A/143/2-P.2.rev  
24 November 2021

## Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

### Request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegations of Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom

On 24 November 2021, the IPU President received from the delegations of Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 143rd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Stopping human trafficking, halting human rights abuses and working towards free and fair elections in Belarus".

Delegates to the 143rd Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 143rd Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom on Saturday, 27 November 2021.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request. The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Furthermore, Assembly Rule 11.2 stipulates that:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted.
- (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted.
- (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject.
- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE IPU PRESIDENT BY  
THE HEAD OF THE GERMAN IPU-DELEGATION**

24 November 2021

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to ask you, on behalf of the German delegation and in line with the Statutes of the IPU, specifically Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, to place on the agenda the attached request for the inclusion in the agenda of an emergency item on the subject of:

“Stopping human trafficking, halting human rights abuses and working towards free and fair elections in Belarus”.

for the 143rd IPU Assembly, which is taking place from 26 to 30 November 2021 in Madrid.

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum and the draft resolution in English.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Sgd. Dr. Johann WADEPHUL  
Head of the German IPU delegation

**STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HALTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND  
WORKING TOWARDS FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN BELARUS**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegations  
of Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands,  
Poland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom***

In August 2020, Alexander Lukashenko claimed victory in an election widely regarded as unfair and flawed. Following this flawed election, the situation for human rights, civil liberties and democratic institutions in Belarus has further deteriorated. Opposition leaders were either arbitrarily taken into custody and jailed or forced into exile, triggering huge protests across the country. The EU imposed sanctions as a consequence of this massive crackdown on the opposition, journalists and civil society organizations.

In May 2021, further measures were imposed by the EU following yet another act of state terrorism, when an international Ryanair flight from Greece to Lithuania, between two EU countries, was forced to land in Minsk so that the opposition journalist and blogger Roman Protasevich could be arrested.

In an attempt to divert attention from its human rights violations and to destabilize neighbouring countries and the EU external border, the Lukashenko regime began deliberately bringing migrants to Belarus in May 2021. This orchestrated instrumentalization of human beings is seriously putting human lives at risk and is provoking a migrant crisis just for mere political purpose.

The standoff witnessed at the Belarus-Polish border with vulnerable children and families at the centre of this humanitarian crisis must stop. The Lukashenko regime has become a threat to regional stability and a strong international response is needed to confront Lukashenko and pave the way for a peaceful and democratic transition in Belarus.

**STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HALTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND  
WORKING TOWARDS FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN BELARUS**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of  
GERMANY, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, THE NETHERLANDS,  
POLAND, UKRAINE and THE UNITED KINGDOM***

The 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Considering* that the presidential elections in Belarus on 9 August 2020 were widely regarded as unfair, not free and biased, and hence have not been recognized by a vast majority of States of the international community,
- (2) *Underlining* that the Lukashenko regime has ever since embarked on a path of severe repression against a wide range of government critics and opponents, including the dissolution of more than 200 civil society organizations and free media outlets, with the aim of securing its own power,
- (3) *Emphasizing* that key figures of the political opposition, such as Maria Kolesnikova, Maxim Znak and Victor Babariko have been jailed based on very questionable long-term sentences, and that the number of political prisoners has surpassed a threshold of more than 830,
- (4) *Noting with great concern* that Belarus started in June 2021 to deliberately fly migrants from countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia to Belarus in order to traffic them to the EU border and instrumentalize these migrants to blackmail the EU,
- (5) *Highlighting* that this State act of terrorism is causing an increasingly severe humanitarian crisis at the borders with Poland and Lithuania and is deliberately exploiting the human suffering of migrants for political purposes,
- (6) *Considering* that this action by the Lukashenko regime is being facilitated by the explicit or tacit participation of third countries, as well as private entities such as airlines operating to and from Belarus,
- (7) *Witnessing* a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation at the border with Poland and insufficient access for humanitarian organizations to provide basic humanitarian services to migrants,
- (8) *Recalling* the various resolutions of the United Nations Security Council that condemn all forms of human trafficking in the strongest possible terms, such as UNSC resolution 2331 (2016),
  1. *Requests* that the United Nations make the topic of human trafficking a point of focus of the next UN General Assembly;
  2. *Calls on* the Lukashenko regime to immediately stop flying people from third countries to Belarus with the aim of illegally smuggling them to the border of the EU;
  3. *Urges* countries around the world to increase pressure on the Lukashenko regime to stop it from this practice of human trafficking and to take appropriate measures against the regime and its supporters should they not stop this practice;
  4. *Requests* that the countries of origin and transit fully investigate the trafficking routes, fully cooperate with the Member States of the EU, contribute to stopping the practice of organized human trafficking to the EU and, finally, consider taking back their citizens currently located in Belarus;
  5. *Demands* that international airlines transparently screen their international travellers to and from Belarus and consequently impede any efforts to use Belarus as a hub to further migrate towards the EU;

6. *Welcomes* in this regard the rapid action taken by the main Turkish airlines and others to stop flying persons to Belarus who have the clear aim of migrating and encourages other airlines and countries to follow that example;
7. *Calls on* the Lukashenko regime to immediately stop all acts of oppression against opposition and civil society organizations and actors, free all political prisoners, including social activists, journalists and members of the Polish minority, and allow for a peaceful transition towards free, fair and impartial internationally observed elections;
8. *Strongly demands* the Belarusian authorities to allow full access to humanitarian organizations to provide food, shelter and other basic humanitarian services to those migrants suffering at the border, especially women and children;
9. *Emphasizes* its urgent calls on Belarus to strictly and comprehensively obey international law and international humanitarian law and refrain from any form of deliberate exploitation of vulnerable humans;
10. *Underlines* the direct repercussions instability in Belarus has on the countries in the immediate neighbourhood;
11. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter and calls on other international institutions and organizations such as the United Nations Security Council to do likewise.