



Sebastian Kurz, Federal Chancellor, Republic of Austria
Sophie Wilmès, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Belgium
Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister, Republic of Bulgaria
Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister, Republic of Croatia
Nicos Anastasiades, President of the Republic, Republic of Cyprus
Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister, Czech Republic
Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Denmark
Micheál Martin, Taoiseach, Republic of Ireland
Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister, Republic of Estonia
Sanna Marin, Prime Minister, Republic of Finland
Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic, French Republic
Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany
Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister, Hellenic Republic
Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister, Hungary
Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister, Italian Republic
Krišjānis Kariņš, Prime Minister, Republic of Latvia
Gitanas Nausėda, President, Republic of Lithuania
Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Robert Abela, Prime Minister, Republic of Malta
Mark Rutte, Prime Minister, Kingdom of the Netherlands
Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister, Republic of Poland
António Costa, Prime Minister, Republic of Portugal
Klaus Werner Iohannis, President, Romania
Igor Matovič, Prime Minister, Slovak Republic
Janez Janša, Prime Minister, Republic of Slovenia
Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Spain
Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Sweden
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Charles Michel, President of the European Council
David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament
Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Brussels, 23 September 2020

Statement of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on the illegitimate inauguration of Aliaksandr Lukashenka as President of the Republic of Belarus

The Steering Committee of the EaP CSF condemns the decision of the Belarusian authorities to proceed with the inauguration of Aliaksandr Lukashenka as President of the Republic of Belarus for his sixth term, despite the clear and unequivocal rejection of the results of the 9 August presidential election as fraudulent by the Belarusian people and the international community.

While the secretive nature of the ceremony, which was not announced in advance, would appear to underline the insecurity of the incumbent illegitimate regime, the very decision to proceed with the inauguration itself, against a backdrop of mass protests and repressive



violence, serves to highlight the authorities' wanton disregard for the will of the Belarusian people, and for international human rights standards.

Today's events illustrate that Aliaksandr Lukashenka has no intention of standing down from power. In this context, the Steering Committee urges the heads of the European Union institutions, and the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the EU member states, to restate their non-recognition of Mr. Lukashenka as the legitimate President of the Republic of Belarus, unreservedly and without delay.

***Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership
Civil Society Forum***

Zaur Akbar, Youth Club Public Union, Azerbaijan

Olga Chyzhova, Digital Communication Network, Estonia

Ina Coseru, National Environmental Center, Moldova

Lousineh Hakobyan, Europe in Law Association, Armenia

Mikayel Hovhannisyan, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Armenia

Shahla Ismayil, Women's Association for Rational Development (WARD), Azerbaijan

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Mikalai Kvantaliani, Association "New Group", Belarus

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