

# Belarus: Joint Statement by HR/VP, Josep Borrell and the Ministe



We, as friends of the Belarusian people and supporters of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Belarus, stand by the people's wish for democratic change.

We have clearly and repeatedly expressed our positions regarding the conduct of the 9 August presidential elections in Belarus and their aftermath. The presidential elections were neither free nor fair.

The massive demonstrations in Minsk and across the country on Sunday 23 August should make it clear to the authorities that it is now urgent to launch an open and constructive national dialogue to find a way forward in Belarus.

Belarus has international obligations, which we expect the authorities to respect. As an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) participating state, Belarus has committed to holding genuinely democratic elections and to upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms. Only a peaceful and democratic process can de-escalate the situation and provide sustainable solutions.

Therefore, we support the Albanian OSCE chairmanship-in-office proposal to support dialogue in Belarus by a joint visit with the incoming OSCE chairperson-in-office, Sweden. We call on the Belarusian authorities to accept this proposal without delay. We call on all other OSCE participating states to support this proposal as well.

We will continue to follow the situation closely and stand ready to contribute to efforts to peacefully resolve the crisis.

Canada and the European Union will continue to stand with the people of Belarus and will continue to work with our international partners to ensure that their voices are heard and their rights upheld.

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## Supply of Personal Protective Equipment

The EEAS is launching a call for tenders using an open procedure, for the supply of personal protective equipment.

If you are interested to participate in this call for tenders, please find the contract notice and all relevant documents on TED following the link below.

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## Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers: Remarks by the High Re



*Check against delivery!*

Good morning,

I would like to thank the Defence Minister of Germany [Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer] for hosting this meeting, which is the first physical meeting since March. Six months have passed without having the opportunity of sitting and discussing together.

Today, we are going to discuss very important topics, because the situation is very worrisome in Libya, in Mali, tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean, the situation in Belarus. We have a lot of issues to talk about.

We will also talk about structural matters like the Strategic Compass. We have to push for this Strategic Compass to be developed and many other issues

of European defence.

I am very happy that we are going to have with us the NATO Secretary General [Jens Stoltenberg] and also the United Nations Under-Secretary-General [for Peace Operations] Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

I think it is going to be a profitable meeting.

Thank you, Minister [Kramp-Karrenbauer], for organising it.

Link to the video: <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-193911>

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