



# THE EUROPEAN UNION AND BELARUS

## #StrongerTogether



The European Union has shown an **unwavering commitment to the Belarusian people** since the falsification of the 2020 presidential elections. In response to the government's unprecedented crackdown on civilians, and in light of Belarus involvement in the Russian military aggression, the EU has recalibrated its assistance fully away from the authorities, progressively imposed restrictive measures against the Lukashenka regime, and increased its support for the Belarusian people and civil society. EU assistance is benefitting citizens directly, by reinforcing civic initiatives and independent media, facilitating mobility and scholarships, and supporting SMEs and the health and cultural sectors.

### ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO A DEMOCRATIC BELARUS

The EU has outlined a **€3 billion comprehensive plan of economic support** for a future democratic Belarus. In the event of a democratic transition, this investment programme will help stabilise the Belarusian economy, unlock growth potential and create jobs. This plan is a clear signal of the EU's long-term commitment to the sovereignty and prosperity of the Belarusian people.

To deliver tangible results to a future democratic Belarus and ensure sustainable impact, the EU would stand ready to support **five key flagships**:



Supporting an innovative and competitive economy

Improving transport connectivity and facilitating trade



Boosting innovation and the digital transformation

Supporting a green Belarus – energy efficiency, waste management, and infrastructures



Investing in a democratic, transparent, and accountable Belarus

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### ECONOMY

- The EU supports businesses in exile: financial and technical assistance for small companies relocated abroad



### EDUCATION

- The EU has put in place scholarship and professional exchange programmes, allowing students and professionals affected by the political crisis to study abroad or online.



### SUPPORT TO VICTIMS

- The EU continues to support victims of repression in Belarus and abroad, including financial assistance and other forms of support in connection with their political and civic activities

## RECOVERY RESILIENCE REFORM

### SOCIETY

- The EU is the lead donor supporting Belarusian civil society representatives both within the country and in exile, and has continued crucial support to democratic voices of the people of Belarus.



### MEDIA

- The EU provides technical assistance and training for independent journalists, media workers and institutions working in exile

### UNITED EU RESPONSE TO REPRESSION

The EU's united response to ongoing repression against the Belarusian people can be summarised by three S's: **S**upport, **S**olidarity, and **S**anctions.

#### SUPPORT

The EU has substantially stepped up its support to the people of Belarus. This includes over €100 million to assist victims of repression, civil society, and independent media, mobility and scholarships, small businesses, health and cultural sector.

#### SOLIDARITY

The EU supports the right of the Belarusian people to choose their own future, and will continue to speak with one loud voice in support of their democratic aspirations. The EU also stands ready to invest up to €3 billion in Belarus once a future democratic transition takes place.

#### SANCTIONS

The EU has imposed a series of sanctions against the Lukashenka regime in response to the continued suppression of human rights, the instrumentalisation of migrants and its support for the Russian military invasion against Ukraine. Imposing sanctions sends a clear message that violating human rights and international norms comes at a cost, and that those responsible for repression and the unjustified Russian military aggressor will be held accountable.