

Brussels, 10 December 2019

To: High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell

Dear Mr Borrell,

Given that one of the EU's Eastern Partnership countries, the Republic of Belarus, is most likely to deepen its integration with the Russian Federation and the fact that we, the EU, know nothing about outgoing negotiations, I am addressing you with an encouragement and request to seek for a full EU's awareness on the matter.

As a global player seeking for a stable, secure and prosperous neighbourhood with prevalent principles of sovereignty, respect for human rights and full implementation of the rule of law, the EU should voice its concerns and approach governments of Belarus and Russia by requesting trilateral consultations. Such format has been previously applied when negotiating the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine. Reapplication of the format would allow the EU to be fully informed and to ensure that advanced integration between Belarus and Russia does not clash with the cooperation goals set between the EU and Belarus.

The next meeting to negotiate advancement of integration pact between Belarus and Russia will take place on 20 December 2019. I call upon you to consider a proposed initiative and to take active measures without any delay, as it is crucial for protecting Union's interests, sovereignty of neighbouring Belarus, and maintaining Union's engagement in the processes taking place in our closest neighbourhood.

Sincerely,



Petras Auštrevičius

Member of the European Parliament

European Parliament Standing Rapporteur on Belarus