

RESOLUTION ON BELARUS

12-13 September 2005 Birštonas

The members of the meeting, considering good neighbourhood policy indispensable for cooperation of modern societies and states in creating mutual understanding and building a safe, democratic and open area of European political culture, concerned with the retention of the identity, ensuring wellbeing and peaceful future of the European nations,

1. Note modern Europe and the global community cannot tolerate authoritarian regimes that violate human rights and fundamental freedoms and create an atmosphere of isolation;
2. Express their conviction that all citizens of Belarus should fully enjoy their political freedoms, including the right to free association and the right to impartial information. These are necessary conditions of the civic society;
3. Emphasise that the authoritarian regime in Belarus artificially initiated a national conflict leading to alienation between the Polish minority and the Belarus people. Condemn the persecution of the Polish national minority and of the NGO the Polish Union of Belarus by the Belarus authorities, and suppression of the democratic processes in Belarus. The members of the meeting consider the latter actions to conflict with the principles of civilised and democratic cooperation between the state and the citizens, national minorities and NGOs.