

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on Politically Motivated Confiscations of Property in Belarus and Russia and the Establishment of a European Compensation Mechanism for Victims of Political Repression

The European Parliament, – having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in particular Article 17 thereof, – having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights and Protocol No. 1 thereto, in particular Article 1 concerning the protection of property, – having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, – having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, – having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, – having regard to previous European Parliament resolutions concerning human rights violations in Belarus and the Russian Federation, – having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the authorities of the Republic of Belarus continue to systematically employ politically motivated confiscation of property as a tool of repression against journalists, human rights defenders, representatives of civil society, entrepreneurs, scholars, public figures and political opponents;

B. whereas Belarusian authorities increasingly impose criminal sentences both in person and in absentia under politically motivated charges related to so-called “extremism”, “terrorism”, “calls for sanctions” and other forms of peaceful political activity;

C. whereas such sentences are regularly accompanied by confiscation of apartments, houses, vehicles, bank accounts, businesses, intellectual property and other assets belonging to targeted individuals;

D. whereas in May 2026 the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted legislation allowing seizure and enforcement against the property of citizens who left the country and persons accused under legislation concerning so-called “foreign agents”;

E. whereas the practices implemented by the Belarusian and Russian authorities effectively mirror one another and represent a coordinated model of politically motivated repression and suppression of civil liberties;

F. whereas politically motivated confiscation of property reproduces methods historically associated with totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century, where expropriation was used to suppress dissent, destroy political opposition and economically eliminate perceived opponents of the state;

G. whereas arbitrary confiscation of property violates fundamental principles of international law, including the prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of property, the right to an effective legal remedy and the right to a fair trial;

H. whereas international legal practice already contains precedents for restitution and compensation mechanisms for victims of politically motivated confiscations, including post-war restitution mechanisms, compensation programmes following communist expropriations in Central and Eastern Europe and international claims tribunals;

I. whereas the international community possesses both the legal right and the moral responsibility to establish mechanisms ensuring compensation for victims of politically motivated expropriation;

J. whereas politically motivated confiscations increasingly affect spouses, elderly parents and minor children of individuals subjected to political persecution, thereby constituting a form of collective punishment contrary to the fundamental principles of international human rights law;

K. whereas Article 16 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child protects children against arbitrary interference with their family and home, while Article 27 guarantees every child the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing;

L. whereas the deprivation of women and their children of property, housing, and means of subsistence as a form of political punishment is incompatible with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in particular Articles 2, 7, 13, 15, and 16 thereof, and constitutes a serious violation of the principles of non-discrimination, and the protection of women's rights under international law;

M. whereas politically motivated confiscation of family homes and property may deprive children of housing security, inheritance rights, social stability and realistic opportunities to maintain meaningful ties with their country of origin and to exercise their right to return following democratic change;

N. whereas Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognise the right of every person to return to his or her own country; whereas forced exile combined with confiscation of property may undermine the effective exercise of this right;

O. whereas the OSCE participating States have repeatedly reaffirmed, through the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent human dimension commitments, that no person should be subjected to persecution, discrimination, or economic reprisals on account of political beliefs; whereas the use of property confiscation, deprivation of housing, and economic pressure against political opponents and their families, particularly those forced into exile, constitutes a violation of these commitments as it creates a deliberate obstacle to the exercise of the right to return to one's own country;

P. whereas international legal practice demonstrates that systematic confiscation of property directed against political opponents may constitute political persecution prohibited under international law and, when carried out on a widespread or systematic basis against a civilian population, may amount to crimes against humanity, including persecution on political grounds within the meaning of Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

Q. whereas according to documented evidence, thousands of individuals have been subjected to politically motivated repression in Belarus since 2020 and in Russia since 2022, while international organizations have documented widespread and systematic violations of human rights, including torture, arbitrary detention and politically motivated prosecutions;

1. Strongly condemns the politically motivated confiscation of property by the authorities of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation as a form of transnational repression and a grave violation of fundamental human rights;
2. Recognises forced political exile combined with confiscation of property as a continuing violation of human rights under international law;
3. Recognises that politically motivated confiscation of property affecting family members, including spouses, parents and children of political opponents, constitutes a form of collective punishment incompatible with international human rights obligations;

4. Stresses that particular attention should be given to children of political exiles whose families have been deprived of homes, property and economic security as a result of politically motivated confiscations;
5. Calls on the European Commission and the Council to develop without delay a unified European legal mechanism addressing politically motivated confiscation of property carried out by authoritarian regimes;
6. Calls for the establishment of a European Compensation Fund for Victims of Political Repression financed through:
 - (a) confiscated state assets belonging to the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation located within the jurisdiction of Member States;
 - (b) revenues and assets of state-owned enterprises involved in financing repression or supporting authoritarian regimes;
 - (c) seized state cargoes, commercial property and financial assets connected to the Belarusian and Russian regimes;
 - (d) a special compensatory duty of not less than 10% on export trade operations involving state-owned enterprises and sanctioned entities connected to the regimes of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation;
7. Calls on the Commission to develop a unified claims procedure enabling victims of politically motivated confiscation to:
 - (a) register and document losses;
 - (b) obtain international recognition of political expropriation;
 - (c) receive compensation for material and non-material damages;
 - (d) pursue restitution through European legal mechanisms;
8. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the future compensation mechanism explicitly covers violations suffered by family members and children arising from politically motivated confiscation, including loss of housing, inheritance rights, educational opportunities, family security and social stability;
9. Calls for the establishment of a European Register of Victims of Politically Motivated Confiscation and Forced Exile in Belarus and Russia in order to facilitate future compensation, restitution and legal remedies;
10. Calls for the European Compensation Fund for Victims of Political Repression to provide fair, adequate and effective compensation to every individual officially recognised as a victim of politically motivated confiscation of property;
11. Considers that victims of politically motivated confiscation should be entitled to full compensation covering the actual value of confiscated assets, lost income, economic losses, moral damages, forced exile and other consequences of political persecution;
12. Stresses that, in order to ensure effective redress and meaningful compensation for grave violations of fundamental rights, compensation awarded to officially recognised victims should, as a general principle, not be lower than EUR 1 000 000 per recognised victim,

- without prejudice to the right of victims to seek higher compensation where the value of confiscated assets and documented losses exceeds that amount;
13. Stresses that compensation assessments should take into account unlawful deprivation of property, forced exile, destruction of professional, social and business activity, reputational harm, deprivation of housing, violations affecting family members and children, loss of inheritance rights, lost economic opportunities and future earnings;
 14. Stresses that where victims demonstrate ownership of assets exceeding the above amount, compensation should be determined according to the actual market value of confiscated property, businesses, financial assets, intellectual property and other documented economic interests;
 15. Calls for the compensation mechanism to include:
 - (a) independent legal and financial expertise;
 - (b) international verification of asset valuation;
 - (c) the possibility of collective and individual claims;
 - (d) protection of inheritance rights of victims' families;
 16. Calls for compensation to reflect inflation, accrued interest, lost income and the duration of unlawful deprivation of property rights;
 17. Believes that adoption of such measures would have historic significance by contributing to the creation of a new international standard aimed at ending the practice of confiscating citizens' property for political reasons in authoritarian states;
 18. Notes that politically motivated confiscation of property has historically been one of the defining instruments of totalitarian rule and that failure to respond effectively risks normalizing such practices in the twenty-first century;
 19. Stresses that failure to respond adequately would create a dangerous precedent allowing authoritarian regimes to confiscate the property of political opponents while continuing to benefit from economic activities and state assets within democratic jurisdictions; state assets, commercial activities and economic interests maintained within democratic jurisdictions should not be shielded from measures intended to provide effective remedies and compensation to victims of politically motivated expropriation;
 20. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to ensure that politically motivated confiscation of property becomes subject to coordinated international legal consequences;
 21. Calls on the Commission, the European External Action Service and the Member States to examine legal avenues for directing immobilised, confiscated or otherwise recovered state assets connected to the regimes of Belarus and Russia towards compensation and restitution for victims of political repression and politically motivated confiscation of property;
 22. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to recognise politically motivated confiscation of property as a form of transnational repression and to incorporate this category of violations into future EU human rights, sanctions and accountability mechanisms;

23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the democratic forces of Belarus and Russia.