



## **EURONEST PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

### **DECISION**

#### **on prolongation of the mandate of the Working Group on Belarus of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly**

The Euronest Parliamentary Assembly,  
meeting in Baku on 3-4 April 2012,

Having regard to its Rules of Procedure as adopted on 3 May 2011, and in particular Art. 27.1;

Having regard to its "Decision on confirmation of the creation of two Working Groups of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly" as adopted on 3 May 2011,

Having regard to the work which was undertaken by the representatives of both components of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly in the framework of the Working Group on Belarus since 3 May 2011,

Having regard to the proposal forwarded by the Bureau,

Whereas the political situation in Belarus has been seriously deteriorating since the presidential elections of 19 December 2010, with repressive measures being taken against members of the democratic opposition, the free media, civil society activists and human rights defenders, despite repeated calls from the international community to halt these measures immediately;

Whereas the fully-fledged participation in the work of the Assembly of all the Eastern European Partners' Delegations is yet still a common wish of both components of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly;

## DECIDES

1. The Working Group will continue with its activities until the next ordinary session of the Euronest PA to be held in 2013. The mandate of the Working Group should be further submitted to annual renewals on the occasion of each plenary session of the Euronest PA, in accordance with Article 27.1 of the Rules of Procedure, and the Working Group should continue its activities until its objective is achieved.
2. The Working Group on Belarus will specifically study and make proposals on which way the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly might contribute to the fulfilment by Belarus of the membership criteria as described in Article 3 of the Constituent Act, in order for the Assembly to be able to welcome the Belarusian Delegation in due course. For this purpose, the working group may take contacts with the Institutions of Belarus, with the civil society of the country, with the other EU Institutions, with the EU Member States and other concerned players; the Working Group may hold hearings and organise visits to the country, in agreement with the Bureau; the Working Group should particularly follow the preparation of Belarusian legislative elections foreseen to take place in September 2012 and seek the most appropriate way, always in agreement with the Bureau, to contribute to possible international election observation exercises. In addition, the Working Group should pay specific attention to the question of the opening of EU programmes to Belarusian citizens, especially those programmes related to the youth, with due respect to the competences of the standing committees.
3. The Working Group on Belarus will report in writing to the Bureau of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

Baku, 4 April 2012