



Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission

Olivér Várhelyi  
Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Brussels, 11 March 2021

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. Commissioner,

Let me address you with kind request to consider providing urgent assistance to Belarusian people in their struggle with COVID-19 pandemic, by initiating a vaccination campaign in Belarus under responsibility of a third party, such as the UN Development Programme.

While the EU is committed to assist deprived countries and communities in providing access to vaccines globally, Belarus is a very special case. It is a country in Europe, in the EUs immediate neighbourhood, ruled by a self-declared leader Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who systematically diminishes the graveness of the pandemic and has left citizens and medical personnel to grapple with its effects without any support. The Belarusian authorities did not prepare any vaccination roll-out plans to date.

To my knowledge a request for the EU to support a fully-fledged country-wide vaccination campaign has been addressed to you by the Leader of democratic Belarus Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. I would like to express my full support to this request.

The EU should help Belarusians to get access to vaccines, as other Europeans do, to help avoid humanitarian and public health crisis with possible spill over effect in the EU neighbourhood. As the EU does not recognise Alyaksandr Lukashenko as a legitimate leader of Belarus, it is important that the EU and international assistance would be provided via a third party, and not trough the Belarusian authorities. Only this way we can be sure that the EU assistance will effectively reach its intended destination - the Belarusian people in need.

Sincerely,

Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĖ, MEP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.