

Brussels, 10/09/2010

Detention of Vladimir Volodin in Belarus: European Greens call for transparent investigation

Vladimir Volodin, a member of the Central Council of the Belarusian Green Party, was arrested on September 8th, 2010 in his apartment in Minsk. Police officers conducted a search and confiscated the hard disk of his personal computer and some leaflets. The police told Tamara Sidorenko, Mr Volodin's lawyer, that he was being arrested on suspicion of being involved in an arson attack on offices of Belarusbank on 30th April 2010. However, no evidence was presented and none of the conditions necessary for someone's detention under the laws of the Republic of Belarus were met.

We European Greens are extremely concerned about the increasing political tensions in Belarus. We were alarmed to hear of the death, in very mysterious circumstances, of leading opposition journalist Oleg Bebenin and the death threats sent to Svetlana Kalinkina, deputy editor of " Narodnaya Volya'. We also condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the many unjustified and politically-motivated detentions of human and civil rights activists in recent months.

We appeal to the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Government and law enforcement agencies to conduct a just and fair investigation into the cases mentioned above and to release all those who are currently being unjustly detained.

Yours sincerely,
Jacqueline Cremers, EGP Secretary General
Alexey Kozlov, EGP Committee member