



UNSC



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1. Welcome letter

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr

Dear delegates, we truly believe that each model of the United Nations provides each delegate with knowledge. Knowledge about ongoing problems that the politicians of today’s world are currently trying to solve, or past issues that have already been solved through dialogue and cooperation.

Furthermore, we consider that the enrichment from attending one of these models leads to each individual becoming a more conscious citizen. This is why we, Mateo Giraldo Estrada and Natalia Garcia Perea, welcome you to participate in CCBMUN XIV. Within this space, each one of you will be able to debate amongst each other about current affairs. Additionally, we expect delegates to be fully committed towards accomplishing the purpose of the UNSC (United Nations Security Council), which is to maintain international peace and security; develop friendly relations among nations; cooperate in solving international problems, and promote respect for human rights; and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.

Subsequently, we also hope that throughout the following days of debate, each one of you grows as a delegate, reaching a better understanding of the current world situation. Lastly, we Mateo Giraldo and Natalia Garcia, will help each one of you with any inquiries or doubts about the topics or committee, please do not hesitate to contact us at any moment.

Sincerely,

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2. Introduction to the Committee

2.1 History

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the international community decided to create the United Nations (UN), an international organisation with the main goal of maintaining international peace and security, and taking effective collective measures to prevent and remove threats to peace. The UN Charter is the UN's governing document, drafted by 50 states in the San Francisco Conference, from April 25 to June 26, 1945, and later signed by 51 nations. The document established the six main organs of the organisation, the Secretariat, the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Trusteeship Council. The UN Charter came into force on October 24, 1945, after being ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. The first session of the Security Council was held on January 17, 1946, at Church House, Westminster, London. Since then, the Council's permanent residence was relocated to the United Nations' Headquarters in New York City.

The Security Council not only has the primary purpose of preserving international peace and security, but it also contributes to the development of friendly relations between member states, and it creates a place to effectively cooperate in solving conflicts among nations. The Council, as stated in article 39 of the UN Charter: *“shall determine the existence of any*



threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression¹ and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.” Such decisions are agreed to be accepted and be carried out by the member states in accordance with the Charter². This means that the Security Council has the authority to bind all members of the organisation, and the members are obliged to follow the measures agreed upon in the Council’s resolutions.

The Council consists of fifteen members, five permanent and ten non-permanent members. All members are granted one vote. Originally the 5 permanent states were the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the French Republic, and the Republic of China. Later the Republic of China would be replaced at the UN by the People’s Republic of China on October 25, 1971, and the Soviet Union would be replaced by the Russian Federation on December 24, 1991. These five nations have veto power over any Council’s resolution. The ten non-permanent members are elected for a two-year period, with no consecutive re-election, and are chosen considering geographical distribution. There are 3 representatives from African countries, two from Latin America, two from Asia, two from Western Europe, and one from Eastern Europe.

¹ Threat to peace: originally perceived exclusively to inter-state conflicts, but the idea has expanded to include internal situations, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, terrorism, climate change and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among others.

Breach of peace: less expansive term referring to specific acts that pose a significant threat to international peace and security.

Act of aggression: the term must be understood by the definition established in resolution 3314 of the General Assembly of 1974. See [A/RES/29/3314 - Definition of Aggression - UN Documents: Gathering a body of global agreements \(un-documents.net\)](#)

² *Article 25: The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.*



All decisions on procedural or non-substantial matters need a minimum of nine affirmative votes to pass. The veto power is not applicable in these cases. However, in decisions regarding substantial matters (resolutions), nine affirmative votes are required, including the concurring votes³ of the five permanent members. Any member of the United Nations who is not a member of the Security Council can be invited to participate in discussions about a situation brought to the Council that especially affects that delegation, although it will not have the possibility to vote. If a member is a party to the dispute in an issue being discussed in the Council, it shall abstain from voting (Article 27 [3]). Finally, if the Security Council is unable to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security because of the exercise of the veto power of the permanent members in a decision of vital importance, members of the council may request, applying the General Assembly resolution 377(V) (United for peace), for the referral of the issue to the General Assembly so it can make the necessary recommendations.⁴

2.2 Powers

The UNSC has three sets of powers according to the Charter:

- Adjustment or settlement powers (Chapter VI)
- Enforcement powers (Chapter VII); and
- Regional arrangement powers (Chapter VIII)

Adjustment or settlement powers:

³ Abstention, non-participation, absence, or a vote in favour are considered as concurring.

⁴ See <https://ask.un.org/faq/177134> and [A/RES/377\(V\) - E - A/RES/377\(V\) -Desktop \(undocs.org\)](https://undocs.org/A/RES/377(V)-E)

The Council, to peacefully resolve international disputes or situations that in principle do not pose a threat to peace yet, can take a number of non-coercive measures to settle the dispute. The SC can call upon the parties to a dispute to settle their dispute through “*negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice*” (Article 33 [2]). Also, the Council may investigate any dispute that might endanger international peace and security, and it can establish fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry to fulfil such purposes. If the efforts mentioned in Article 33 fail to settle the conflict, the SC shall intervene recommending appropriate procedures, methods or terms of settlement, or referring the dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), if necessary.

Enforcement powers:

When measures taken under Chapter VI result unsuccessful, the Security Council can take more assertive action under Article 39 by making non-binding recommendations or binding provisional decisions⁵ on which process to follow, like issuing ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict, or dispatching military observers - or a peacekeeping force - to help reduce tensions. In addition, the Council may decide for enforcement measures not involving the use of force, like complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations. On the contrary, it may authorise

⁵ To understand when Security Council’s decisions are binding the ICJ said, in Legal Consequences for States of the Continued Presence of South Africa in Namibia case (1971), that “*the language of a resolution of the Security Council should be carefully analysed before a conclusion can be made as to its binding effect... the question whether they have in fact been exercised (powers of Article 25) is to be determined in each case, having regard to the terms of the resolution to be interpreted, the discussions leading to it, the Charter provisions invoked*”.

the use of force by air, sea, or land.

Regional arrangement powers:

Chapter VIII allows regional arrangements or agencies to deal with matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security. If the arrangements and their activities comply with the Purposes and Principles of the UN, the matter addressed is deemed local and adequate for regional action. For an arrangement to be done, the SC needs to give authorization before undertaking any action and is kept fully informed of their activities.

The Security Council has the possibility of establishing subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. They include Ad Hoc committees on sanctions, counterterrorism, and nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, Military Staff Committee and Peacekeeping Operations and Political Missions⁶.

3. Topic A: The Yemen Civil War & the Red Sea Ship Attacks

3.1. Introduction to the topic

Disgruntled, outraged, and marginalised citizens, and a nation which ignores them can only lead to riots, uprisings, and rebellions against a nation's government. The nation of Yemen experienced a somewhat similar situation and is now facing an ongoing civil war, which has

⁶ For more information on subsidiary bodies, see [Subsidiary Organs Branch | United Nations Security Council](#)



been going on for approximately nine years. Furthermore, the severity of this conflict has become incredibly great, ever since the insurgent group took control of the Yemeni capital.

In addition to the internal strife within the nation, this conflict has escalated and sprawled upon bordering nations, surrounding territory, and nations within the Middle East region, as well as outside the Middle East. Furthermore, one of the main actions that has affected the international community would be constant attacks on ships within the Red Sea. These attacks are mostly racially and religiously motivated. Furthermore, various other factors, such as the Saudi Arabian drone strikes, have led to this situation becoming an urgent matter that needs to be solved effectively, and immediately.

Therefore, various nations have joined together in efforts to stop or de-escalate this crisis permanently. Such aforementioned efforts have mostly been directed and executed by regional powers such as The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and The United States of America. Additionally, such efforts have been mostly militaristic interventions, and have proven to be ineffective in completely stopping and solving this ongoing conflict within Yemen.

3.2. Historical Context

Yemen is currently dealing with an ongoing civil war. The roots of this conflict can be traced as far back as the turn of the 21st century. Furthermore, this conflict was caused due to Yemen's unstable, complex, and unique social and political dynamics. Additionally, according to the book "Tribes and Politics in Yemen: A History of the Houthi Conflict" by Marieke Brandt, the Houthi movement emerged as a significant force in the early 2000s, driven by the Zaydi community's longstanding marginalisation in Yemen's political landscape.

Afterward, the Arab Spring riots, protests, and uprisings in 2011 swept across the Middle East. Therefore, according to Uzi Rabi (2017), Yemen experienced protests against the authoritarian rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, which led to his resignation in 2012. However, the subsequent political transition was filled with instability and divisions, among various factions within the nation. Furthermore, the Houthis, who had initially been a critical part of the transition process, began to collaborate with Saleh against the new government led by Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi.

Subsequently, the formation of this alliance between the Houthi and Saleh allowed this insurgent group to take control of Sanna, the Yemen capital, in January 2015. Additionally, Andrew Dumm (2010) explains in “Understanding the Houthi Conflict in Northern Yemen: A Social Movement Approach” how the Houthis capitalised on the widespread hatred there was for the central government, as well as the Zaydi community's desire for greater representation and autonomy. Furthermore, the group's constant military campaigns and political manoeuvres have led to the escalation of this conflict. Therefore, this civil war is a full-blown humanitarian crisis, which has led to many regional powers intervening within this nation.

3.3. Measures previously taken by nations

Taking into account the problems that formed from this conflict, such as the Red Sea ship attacks and the control the Houthi have over the capital, the global community assessed the need to act towards stopping this conflict. Consequently, various solutions have been implemented, although, none of them have been able to serve as a permanent fix. Therefore, some of the actions taken to solve this conflict have been listed below.



- (September, 2014) the signing of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement to form a technocratic government.
- (Post January, 2015) Military intervention from the Saudi Arabian government to restore President Hadi.
- (December, 2018) UN peace talks in Sweden between Yemen and Houthi representatives. These would be the beginnings of a ceasefire that would be broken in 2019.
- (April, 2022) A UN-mediated nationwide truce was implemented, subsequently leading to the de-escalation of this conflict. However, tensions have resurfaced since then.

3.4. Current Situation

At the time that this guide was written, the Houthi conflict can be examined at three different levels. These are national, regional, and international contexts. Furthermore, at each one of these, a main problem and its cause can be identified.

The first of these would be the Red Sea ship attacks. These attacks are done by the Houthi, and they are targeted at ships that do business with Israel. These attacks are done as a form of protest towards the ongoing conflict in Gaza. In addition to this, such attacks have led to thousands of deaths. On the other hand, these attacks have affected trade through the Red Sea. This situation has led to many economic losses on a global scale. For example, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the United States of America, have suffered due to these attacks. Therefore, nations had to abandon ships destroyed by the Houthi in the Red Sea.

What's more, the Houthis have directed their attacks at bordering nations. For example, one of the most notorious of these would be the drone strikes, and missiles used to inflict damage



upon Saudi Arabia and its people. Furthermore, those attacks led to the escalation of the Houthi conflict, due to the need for bordering countries to intervene with military force within Yemen.

Lastly, Yemen is currently in an ongoing civil war that started over nine years ago. During this period, the nation suffered an immense amount of problems, leading to its current state of crisis. Yemen's main problems are its constant government collapse and the territory that the government has lost to the Houthi.

3.5. *QARMAS*

1. Has your delegation been directly or indirectly affected by this situation? If so, then how was it affected?
2. Is your delegation Currently trying to act upon this situation? If so, how is it acting?
3. Has your delegation experienced any similar conflicts within its borders? If so, how did it act upon such conflicts?
4. Is your delegation one of the main actors in this conflict?
5. Has your delegation allied itself with one side of the conflict? If so, with whom, and why?

3.6. *Recommendations from the chair*

Delegates, please remember when tackling this topic to focus more on aspects not solely centred on the constant discussion between Islam and Judaism, with the sole exception of the attacks on ships travelling the Red Sea. Nevertheless, the chair would be most pleased if delegates acted upon this topic through an analysis of the reasons why it occurred. Once such an analysis is complete, delegates should be able to determine what aspects can be altered within Yemen, and what aspects can be removed from this conflict.

3.7. Theoretical framework

- *Zaydi*: A Muslim that believes that the imam isn't appointed by god, but that this is instead decided by the ulama who are part of the Islam community.
- *Ulama*: a term used to refer to religious scholars of the Islamic community.
- *Arab Spring*: A series of social movements protesting, rebelling, and rioting against governments across most of the Arab world.
- *Technocratic government*: A type of governmental model in which decision-makers and policy-makers are chosen based on their skills and expertise within certain areas.

4. Topic B: Assessing the EU-imposed sanctions over Belarus in light of Belarus' support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine

4.1. Introduction to the topic

Since February 2022, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Belarus has been heavily involved in the conflict. For example, the Belarussian nation has provided military assistance to Russia, lent its territory as a point of departure for Russian troops to Ukrainian territory, and provided its air equipment for Russian-led invasions. This issue has attracted the attention of several international organisations, mainly the EU, as it has been imposing sanctions on Belarus in recent years for being a nation characterised by political repression, press censorship, abolition

of dissent, and violation of human rights by the dictator Alexander Lukashenko, who has been in control of the country for the last 30 years. However, with the Russian-Ukrainian war, tensions have increased, and the EU's dissatisfaction with Belarus' actions is only growing stronger as the country seems to show no signs of changing anytime soon, and is firmly allied with Russia.

Diplomatic relations between the Kremlin and Minsk date back to the years of the USSR, being both former Soviet members. They have very close political ideals, and since the dissolution of the union, they have shown mutual support. As Lukashenko is running an authoritarian regime that is constantly criticised, he has no choice but to ask Russia for economic support to maintain the stability of the country. Before 2020, the economic support was standard, and Belarus still had an economy that it could partly maintain on its own and was not completely dependent on an external nation. However, when a fraudulent presidential election was held in Belarus in 2020, in which peaceful protesters were threatened by the government, support for Lukashenko from his citizens and the international community fell even lower than it already was. Subsequently, Lukashenko turned to Russia for help in maintaining the country. As expected, two years later Russia used these interests to its advantage. In exchange for Russian support in the war, it granted the country various benefits - benefits that today are what sustain the Minsk economy almost entirely. This dependence on Russia is bringing Belarus to the point where it could be considered nowadays a satellite state.

Taking these factors into account, one can understand the reason for the Belarusian support to Russia, because leaving the Kremlin aside would imply a huge internal destabilisation in the country. On the other hand, the EU's motivations to stop the Lukashenko regime are justified by the fact that Ukraine is one of the candidate countries to join the EU, and this

organisation has faithfully demonstrated its total indifference toward Russia throughout the conflict, condemning its actions, while giving great support to Ukraine.

In brief, the situation is currently in a critical state, where Belarus does not seem to yield to EU requests, nor does it seem to want to carry out democratisation in the country, a matter that has provoked the Union to take increasingly severe restrictive measures, such as the last ones imposed on June 29, 2024. Due to the negative repercussions that may arise with Belarus becoming another direct actor in the war, and the European Union's response, it is of utmost importance that the UNSC discusses this issue to prevent the conflict from escalating further out of proportion. In light of these developments, it is crucial for members of this committee to assess the effectiveness and impact of the EU sanction policy towards Belarus, to question to what extent the sanctions have succeeded in pressuring President Lukashenko to change his behaviour, and to explore possible scenarios that could be considered in the near future.

4.2. Historical context

To further analyse the situation that is occurring with Belarus, it is relevant to understand how past events promoted the close ties between the nations of Russia and Belarus today. The background of these countries reveals concise reasons why authoritarian Belarus under Alexander Lukashenko (the current president of the country) has eventually aligned itself with Russia in recent years.

Having become a Soviet nation, Belarus maintains cultural and historical ties with the Kremlin. Notably, when the USSR - the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was created on December 30, 1922, Belarus was one of the four founding members; at that time, it also had the name Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (Adamovich, et al, 2024). During its years as part



of the Soviet Union, Belarus participated closely in the Soviet centralized economy and political system, which strengthened its relationship with its border country, Russia.

A much less ethnically diverse Belarus would fall far behind the “Iron Curtain” after the final triumph of the USSR in World War II. Belarus had little basis for remaining a single, independent nation-state, due to its lack of ethnic and cultural variety and little experience regarding self-government. Moreover, although the USSR had several republics representing other ethnic groups, such as Estonia, and Armenia, among others, the country of Belarus was essentially a Soviet administrative territory because of the strong ties the remaining Belarusian population had with Russian culture (Mantchev, 2016).

The leaders of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine dissolved the Soviet Union and established a community of independent states in 1991. Thus, at the direction of the elites, the first independent nation to emerge in Belarus in nearly a century was established. Since there was no broad public movement for liberalisation or self-determination leading to Belarusian independence, the opposition force that arose to challenge the members of the ruling communist party was “inherently weak” (Mantchev, 2016).

Belarus first moved in the direction of freedom and democratic governance soon after the Soviet Union fell apart. Until 1993, there was a party that sought to distance Belarus from Russia because of its dangerous imperialist ideals, called the Popular Front: “They envisioned a Belarus with a national identity based on historical traditions dating back to the 17th century, promoted by intellectuals and institutions and protected from Russian interference by a very large army”(Mantchev, 2016). However, this minority fell along with the possibility of change, when it came to the presidential elections of 1994.

In 1994, a presidential system was established, through which, in addition to this diplomatic role, the new president would also gain powers to appoint bureaucrats to head the government. While populists confronted the campaign, one candidate - Alexander Lukashenko, gained prominence by promoting Russian ideals and won 44.8% of the vote. It was less than a year after his inauguration when Russian again became the official language, and the old Soviet emblems were restored through the passage of laws. The flag's colours and the national anthem were changed as well. In the same year, after the Popular Front was destroyed during elections, every seat in the legislature was won by Lukashenko's party or his Russophile rivals.

Following his election to the presidency in 1994, Lukashenko progressively consolidated authoritarian rule and reversed advances made toward democracy. He completed such actions while facing growing international isolation. According to Mantchev (2016) in his undergraduate research, “Belarus offers a distinct case of post-communist development, remaining Eastern Europe’s most authoritarian state to this day. The incumbent regime, steered for the past twenty years by de facto dictator Alexander Lukashenko, is arguably more centralised than the one in Moscow. From manipulated elections to a centrally planned economy, and zealous supervision of media outlets, Lukashenko’s government wields tight control over practically every facet of daily life in Belarus” (pg.3).

In what has happened up to the current time, Lukashenko's government has been characterised by manipulating referendums and voting processes, lengthening his presidential term, implementing violence against citizens, ignoring and abolishing dissident parties in presidential elections, and repressing the opposition. Ultimately, he has become a dictator who rules Belarus without regard for democratic processes. Belarus's press freedom is still severely

limited. The president is in charge of state media, and intimidation and restriction of independent media outlets are commonplace. The government often intimidates international and independent media for reporting on human rights issues and the failing state of the economy. (BBC News, 2023).

It should be emphasised that what at the time (his first years of presidency) made the dictator able to continue his regime and power was the ability to form an exceptional Belorussian economy. In comparison to many of its soviet neighbours, after the separation from the USSR, Belarus was stable because of the large investment the Soviet Union had made in the nation before it collapsed. Lukashenko then ended the period of “shock therapy” in the country, or as Mantchev (2016) explained, there was a “maintenance of state ownership over industries and strong trade with Russia” (White, Blatt, and Lewis 2003). In the late 1990s and early 2000s, cheap energy and trade credits from Russia accounted for almost one-third of Belarusian GDP (White, Blatt, and Lewis 2003). The government acquired a huge financial gain refining Russian oil and reselling it abroad.”

The policy in Belarus relied on importing a crucial resource at artificially low prices from another country, which was not sustainable or secure, leading to economic instability and the crises experienced in 2006 and 2011, due to falling prices (Mantchev, 2016). Government attempts to stabilise with exchange rate adjustments and price controls were criticised by Russia and Western institutions. Moreover, the EU and Western nations have consistently declined to support Belarus due to Alexander Lukashenko's autocratic rule and manipulation of the electoral process. Diplomatic relations between Belarus and the EU have been minimal since 1996, largely due to the EU's imposition of sanctions, including asset freezes and travel bans against



Belarusian officials following disputed elections in 2005 and 2010 (Mantchev, 2016). The widespread concerns about human rights violations in Belarus are evidenced by the lack of support, which has impeded substantial policy cooperation between Belarus and the European community.

Initially, Lukashenko pursued a multi-vector foreign policy, attempting to balance relations with the West while maintaining close ties with Russia. It is acknowledged by the European Council (2024) that “between 2014 and 2020 -- relations between the EU and Belarus improved slightly.” However, following a rigged election in 2020, the EU withdrew its support for the Minsk government after a brutal crackdown on protests. On top of that, Lukashenko would become completely reliant on Russian political, economic, and security support to maintain his regime.

Under this pressure, Lukashenko turned to Russia for extensive political, economic, and security assistance. Russia provided significant economic subsidies, discounted energy supplies, and increased its investments in Belarusian industries, leading to increased dependency on the Kremlin and reduced responsiveness to Western pressures and sanctions. Given all these considerations, delegates should be able to fully understand the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the anticipated support from Belarus for Russia.

4.3. Measures previously taken by nations

In August 2020, Belarus held its presidential elections, in which Lukashenko won with over 80% of the votes, extending his authoritarian regime. Suspicions of vote manipulation and fraud triggered peaceful protests denouncing political repression. During these demonstrations, state forces violently clashed with peaceful protesters and journalists, and imprisoned opposition



leaders, while the government sought to censor several media outlets. This sparked international concern over the violation of human rights. Lastly, the following timeline shows such actions and when they occurred.

- Since October 2020, the EU has imposed sanctions on Belarus in response to repression and election falsification. The sanctions include asset freezes, travel bans, and the blocking of EU funds. The EU has also initiated an economic plan to support Belarusians advocating for democracy (European Council, 2024).
- After the unauthorised forced landing of a Ryanair flight in Minsk and the instrumentalization of migrants for political gain, the EU introduced new sanctions in 2021. These sanctions include a prohibition on the use of EU airspace and airports for any flights operating to or from Belarus (European Council, 2024).
- As of March 2022, the EU has expanded its sanctions against Belarus to address the country's support for Russia's military actions in Ukraine. These measures include trade restrictions on dual-use goods, aviation, and defence-related items, as well as a ban on Belarusian road transport operators accessing the EU market. Additionally, there are limitations on financial flows between the EU and Belarus (European Council, 2024). The goal of these sanctions is to reduce Belarus's capacity to aid Russia's military campaign and to exert more pressure on the Lukashenko regime. Moreover, in February 2023, the previously mentioned bans were extended and the sanctions were prolonged for another year.
- On June 29, 2024, the pressure that the EU exerts on Belarus was brought to the same level as the one on Russia in order to close the possible loopholes and prevent the

circumvention of sanctions. This means that the corresponding export bans and import restrictions on mineral products, trade limitations, and professional service sanctions already in force against Russia will be extended to Belarus. The aim is to maximise the efficiency of the measures and further isolate both the regime of Lukashenko and the Kremlin (European Council, 2024).

4.4. Current situation

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, Belarus has played a significant role in the conflict, which has strained its relationship with the EU. The authoritarian Lukashenko regime in Belarus has been responsible for political repression, human rights violations, and press censorship. In addition to these internal issues, Belarus has served as a base for Russian troops entering Ukraine, leading to international condemnation and the imposition of sanctions and restrictions by the EU.

In the early stages of the war, Belarus allowed Russian forces to use its territory. Although Belarusian troops never got directly involved in the conflict, instead it was the opening of its land for a battlefield that provoked the EU to take action. Since then, Minsk has also allowed its airspace to be used by Russia to attack Ukraine, such as launching missiles or drones, as well as allowing Russian personnel and equipment to move easily through the territory. Although sanctions have been imposed for more than two years to stop meddling in the war, Belarus seems not to listen, as it is still motivated by the benefits granted by the Kremlin in exchange for its support, including financial assistance, energy supplies, and bilateral trade. The economic relationship between Belarus and Russia has greatly supported the Belarusian economy, leading to a heavy dependence on Russia. If this support were to be discontinued, it

could potentially cause a crisis in Belarus, since it is controlled to a point where it is currently almost fully dependent on Russia. The Lukashenko regime's deepening integration with Russia has come at a significant cost to Belarusian sovereignty. Two-thirds of Belarus's trade is now with Russia, and the country is increasingly dependent on Moscow for economic support and political backing.

Following the 2020 protests against the political regime, Lukashenko has further consolidated his dictatorial control by implementing severe measures to suppress dissent. This includes imprisoning political opponents, targeting journalists, and shutting down independent media outlets to control the narrative within the country. The regime is also cracking down on Belarusians who express support for Ukraine, labelling them as extremists and initiating legal action against their families.

The EU sanctions are a response to widespread human rights violations under the Lukashenko regime from 2020 to the present, as well as concerns about the Russian-Ukrainian war. These sanctions include, according to the European Council (2024), “extensive export bans on dual-use goods and technologies, restrictions on the import of key resources such as gold, diamonds, and mineral products, and prohibitions on various services provided to the Belarusian government and its state-owned enterprises”. The EU has also implemented measures to prevent circumvention of these sanctions, requiring EU exporters to include "no-Belarus clauses" in contracts to prohibit the re-exportation of sensitive goods to Belarus.

In sum, the situation in Belarus is currently at a critical stage, where on the one hand it is involved in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, strongly supporting Russia, which has created a foreign dependence on Moscow. On the other hand, its authoritarianism is affecting all civilians,

by violating human rights, which puts the country in a bad position in front of the international community and has caused the EU to impose multiple sanctions to date. The likelihood of the country transitioning to a democracy is very low in the short term, and the possibility of it becoming independent in its sovereignty is also very low.

4.5. *QARMAS*

1. Has your delegation been directly or indirectly affected by this situation? If so, how was it affected?
2. Is your delegation Currently trying to act upon this situation? If so, then how is it acting?
3. Has your delegation experienced any similar conflicts within its borders? If so, how did it act upon such conflicts?
4. Is your delegation one of the main actors in this conflict?
5. Has your delegation allied itself with one side of the conflict? If so, with whom and why?

4.6. *Recommendations from the chair*

Although this issue has been ongoing since 2020, the chair strongly recommends focusing on more recent sanctions and issues, such as the Russian-Ukrainian war and Belarus' role in it. It is known that the EU also sanctioned the country for the violation of human rights caused by the Lukashenko government. Conversely, a position can also be taken on this issue apart from the war, as long as it is in the present day (2024). This is with the purpose of delegates striving to find optimal solutions relevant to the current situation, and that can generate positive change.

4.7. Theoretical framework

- *Rusophile*: someone who has a strong admiration towards Russia or the USSR, including its political system, traditions, ideals
- *Circumvention*: The action of cleverly avoiding rules, laws, regulations, penalties, sanctions, etc., to bypass them. It includes evading by various non-transparent and underhand means of these requirements.
- *Kremlin*: the Russian government, another way of naming Russia
- *Minsk*: the Belarusian government, synonym for Belarus
- *Authoritarianism*: very consolidated and centralised control sustained by excluding possible rivals and using political repression. This political system known as authoritarianism is defined by its opposition to both democracy and political pluralism. It includes the use of a powerful central government to uphold the status quo in politics as well as limitations on the rule of law, the division of powers, and democratic voting.
- *International isolation*: rejecting international agreements, alliances, foreign economic commitments, and other forms of engagement to keep one's country isolated from the concerns of other countries
- *Economic/ foreign dependence*: a worldwide power system in which stronger countries economically depend on weaker countries, giving the stronger countries considerable influence over the political and economic decisions made by the weaker countries.
- *Travel Ban*: an official directive to all state ports that forbids someone from entering or departing a country

- *Freezing of assets*: Blocking bank accounts and other financial assets of individuals named in EU legal acts is known as an asset freeze.
- *Bilateral trade*: commerce and investment between two countries through the exchange of products

5. Useful links

5.1. Topic A

- The following link leads to a map of nations that were affected by the Arab Spring in Northern Africa and the Middle East.
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Figure3Map-showing-Countries-affected-by-the-Arab-Spring_fig2_332548053
- The following document provides a further explanation of the importance of the Suez Canal in the Red Sea, as well as, how many Red Sea ship attacks have been recorded and how such attacks have affected the Suez Canal.
<https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2024/mapping-red-sea-shipping-attacks/>
- The following document contains a further explanation of what the Houthi movement is and what its objective is. Additionally, it provides other specific details on aspects related to this movement.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Houthi-movement>
- The document below, lists in the form of a timeline various important events that took place before and during the Yemen civil war. This timeline begins in the 1990s and ends in March of 2024.



<https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/a-timeline-of-the-yemen-crisis-from-the-1990s-to-the-present/>

5.2. Topic B

- The document explains in detail Belarus before, during, and after the Soviet Union, the reason for its close ties with Russia, and Lukshenko's rise to power.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1241&context=respublica>

- Timeline with the key moments of the EU sanctions on Belarus from August 2020 with the presidential elections, to the present year with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-belarus/belarus-timeline/>

- All types of sanctions imposed by the EU on Belarus are explained, along with the number of people and entities affected.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-belarus/>

- Concise summary of how relations between the EU and Belarus are at the moment

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eastern-partnership/belarus/>

- Explanations of the new sanctions over Belarus, established on June 2024

<https://sanctionsnews.bakermckenzie.com/eu-adopts-new-belarus-sanctions-package/>



6. List of delegations:

- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America
- Russian Federation
- People's Republic of China
- French Republic
- Yemen Republic/Belarus Republic
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- United Arab Emirates/Republic of Latvia
- State of Israel/Ukraine
- Arab Republic of Egypt/Poland
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Republic of Italy
- Sweden
- Canada
- Republic of Sudan/Republic of Lithuania

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