



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 9 January 2023
(OR. en)

5131/23

LIMITE

PE-QE 2

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representations of the Member States
Subject:	PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER E-003344/2022 - Lukas Mandl (PPE) 'Prospects for the European Political Community'

1. Delegations will find attached:
 - the text of the above question for written answer;
 - a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.
2. If no comments have been received from delegations by 25 January 2023 (17.00), this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.

Question for written answer E-003344/2022/rev.1
to the Council
Rule 138
Lukas Mandl (PPE)

Subject: Prospects for the European Political Community

From a parliamentary perspective there is some appreciation for the gathering of 43 Heads of State and Government that took place at the initiative of the current Council Presidency in Prague in October, for what has been termed the 'European Political Community'. One concern could be whether such events could harm ongoing enlargement and development processes, but in the light of the positive symbolic aspects associated with this endeavour, I wish to ask the following questions:

1. What will the nature of the European Political Community be in terms of its structure, processes, content and outreach?
2. How and when will the parliamentary levels of the EU and the European countries involved be included in the community's forthcoming activities?
3. How and when will the democratic forces of Belarus under the leadership of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya be included in the community's forthcoming activities?

The first meeting of the European Political Community took place in Prague on 6 October, bringing together the leaders of 44 European partners on an equal footing and in a spirit of unity.

The first meeting of the European Political Community provided an informal platform for political dialogue and coordination among leaders on issues of common interest, such as peace and security, energy, climate and the economy. The fact that 44 European partners stood together, ready to work together to face common challenges in terms of stability, security and energy as well as migration and mobility, goes to the heart of what the Community is about.

For the time being, the parliamentary levels of the 44 European partners are not involved in the European Political Community meetings.

As stated by High Representative Josep Borrell in August 2022, Belarus and its courageous people are an important European neighbour for the EU. We are firmly committed to continuing to use our available instruments to support the democratic rights of the Belarusian people. We will continue to stand by the people of Belarus and support a democratic, independent, sovereign, prosperous and stable Belarus. Members of the Council of the European Union have had the opportunity to pursue regular contacts with Ms Tsikhanouskaya, including in the margins of the November 2022 Foreign Affairs Council meeting.
