

Question for written answer E-004057/2021
to the Council
Rule 138
Leszek Miller (S&D)

Subject: The appropriateness of introducing a state of emergency at the Polish-Belarusian border in the context of a possible joint operation or rapid intervention as part of Frontex

For the past couple of weeks a group of 30 migrants have been camped at the Polish-Belarusian border seeking to enter Poland.

The situation is becoming increasingly tense as the Polish Government decided on 2 September to introduce a state of emergency in the border area. It will cover more than 180 towns. By law, the introduction of a state of emergency should be a last resort, where ordinary measures have proved insufficient.

By introducing a state of emergency in part of Poland, the Polish Government is unnecessarily escalating the situation in order to exploit it for internal political purposes. This is all the more worrying given that during a state of emergency freedoms and human and civil rights are restricted.

Experts say that introducing a state of emergency now is premature and unjustified, as there are no grounds to indicate a specific threat to public security or the state. Moreover, the Polish Government has so far not used all the means available to counter any threats, most importantly through Frontex's technical and operational support capacity. The Polish-Belarusian border is an EU external border and is subject to integrated management. Regulation 2019/1896 provides for the possibility of launching, at the request of a Member State, joint operations to counter illegal immigration or rapid interventions to address border threats.

1. Has Poland asked Frontex to initiate a joint operation or rapid intervention at the border with Belarus (Article 37 of Regulation 2019/1896) or requested any other EU assistance or support in addressing the problem?