

**Question for written answer E-004108/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Conformity of Lithuanian legislation on migrants with the Frontex Regulation

For several months now, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has been openly exploiting migrants to cause problems for neighbouring countries, including Lithuania. Inspired by Turkey's action against Greece and Morocco's against Spain, Lukashenko has had migrants flown in from the Middle East so that he can then direct them towards neighbouring countries. Frontex, which is active on the border between Lithuania and Belarus, has counted 4 000 registered migrants at the Lithuanian border since the beginning of the year.

In response to this intolerable pressure, on 13 July 2021 Lithuania passed a law containing very stringent provisions to act as a deterrent, including the introduction of a six-month detention period for illegal migrants arriving to misuse the European asylum system. The law is based on the judgment handed down by the European Court of Human Rights on 13 February 2020¹ on illegal crossings of the Spanish border at Melilla.

In the light of the foregoing, could the Commission:

1. state whether the new Lithuanian rules are consistent with the Frontex Regulation, and in particular Article 46 thereof?
2. assure Frontex of its full backing in the operations currently under way in Lithuania?
3. where appropriate, include provisions in its draft pact on migration and asylum that are the same as those in the Lithuanian legislation?

¹ [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22itemid%22:\[%22001-201353%22\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22itemid%22:[%22001-201353%22]})