

Question for written answer E-004157/2021
to the Council
Rule 138
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Subject: EU strategy towards the Belarusian regime

One year has passed since the fraudulent presidential election in Belarus and yet, despite the international community's repeated calls for dialogue, the regime's all-out, brutal crackdown on opposition figures, independent media and civil society representatives shows no sign of abating. On the contrary, Lukashenka's henchmen have ominously pledged to 'liquidate' all remaining non-governmental organisations in order to silence all voices of dissent.

In addition, the surge in illegal migration from Belarus to Lithuania, Poland and Latvia has left thousands of migrants stranded at EU borders. There is no doubt that this despicable instrumentalisation of illegal migrants by the Belarusian regime is part of a series of hybrid measures aimed at putting pressure on the EU in response to its fourth set of restrictive measures.

1. What is the EU's long-term strategy towards Lukashenka's regime?
2. When will the EU propose and implement the fifth set of sanctions, which would target a substantially larger number of entities and officials responsible for human rights violations, including the harassment of human rights and civil society activists and journalists, and the malign organisation of illegal migration into the EU?