

**Question for written answer E-004345/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët (ID)**

Subject: Impact on Lithuania of Council sanctions against Belarus

On 28 May the Commission presented a plan to support Belarus, pledging up to EUR 3 billion in aid once its current leader, Alexander Lukashenko, has left office<sup>1</sup>. In the meantime, on 24 June the Council adopted economic sanctions against Belarus<sup>2</sup>, which are ultimately very limited in scope<sup>3</sup>. They include a ban on the import of potash products from Belarus. The EU purchases a very small proportion<sup>4</sup> of Belarus's potash and Minsk will be able to offset this loss in other markets. This measure will, however, hit the already weakened Lithuanian economy hard, since it will lose its share of Belarusian rail freight transport, after already having lost Russian freight. Lithuania's railway operator has estimated its annual financial loss at EUR 19 million<sup>5</sup>, while the sanctions against Belarus as a whole could indirectly cost Lithuanian companies EUR 100 million<sup>6</sup>.

1. Does the Commission not therefore believe the sanctions against Minsk to be counterproductive?
2. Does it think it would be justified to call on European generosity to compensate for the losses incurred by Lithuania?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://fr.euronews.com/2021/05/29/l-union-europeenne-prepare-un-plan-d-aide-destine-a-un-futur-belarus-democratique>

<sup>2</sup> Europe Daily Bulletin No 12748

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bfm.ru/news/475336>

<sup>4</sup> Reuters newswire, 25 June 2021, 'Most Belarus Potash exports not affected by EU sanctions'

<sup>5</sup>

[https://www.baltictimes.com/lithuanian\\_railways\\_can\\_lose\\_around\\_eur\\_19 mln\\_annually\\_due\\_to\\_sanctions\\_\\_ceo/](https://www.baltictimes.com/lithuanian_railways_can_lose_around_eur_19 mln_annually_due_to_sanctions__ceo/)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.courrierinternational.com/article/democratie-les-sanctions-imposees-la-bielorussie-vont-couter-cher-la-lituanie>