

Question for written answer E-004482/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Assita Kanko (ECR)

Subject: The situation on the border between Poland and Belarus

Now that a group of refugees is stranded between Poland and Belarus and four people have already died from hypothermia and exhaustion, the situation would appear to be getting even worse. Human rights organisations are warning that more deaths will follow.

In addition, a media ban has reportedly been imposed by the Polish Government in the border area, restricting media freedom in an EU Member State and creating an information vacuum. This ban should be lifted, especially now that Zapad-21 – the military exercise between Russia and Belarus and a major reason for the state of emergency in Poland – has ended.

In the light of this:

1. What can the Commission do to prevent further loss of life at the border?
2. What further action does the Commission intend to take to condemn Aleksander Lukashenko's unacceptable policy?
3. What steps does the Commission intend to take, now that Zapad-21 has ended, to restore media access to the border area between Poland and Belarus?