

**Question for written answer E-005199/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kosma Złotowski (ECR)

Subject: The Commission's role in funding the Poland-Belarus border crisis

The crisis that has been going on for several months on the eastern border of the EU, and the hybrid attack on Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, were planned and are being carried out by the authoritarian regimes of Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin. This is not a migration or humanitarian crisis, but rather a clear example of illegal immigration being used to exert pressure on Member States. In this context, the Commission's decision to allocate EUR 700 000 to organisations including the Belarusian Red Cross raises a number of concerns.

1. How can the Commission ensure that this money will in fact be used to fund humanitarian aid for illegal immigrants held by Belarus at the border, and that it will not go to institutions and individuals linked to the authorities in Minsk or be used to fund further attacks on Poland's border services?
2. Does the Commission intend to make the provision of funds to Belarusian humanitarian organisations conditional on the authorities in Minsk releasing political prisoners, ceasing repression of the democratic opposition and ending disinformation activities and hacking attacks against Member States?
3. Is the Commission planning to provide the Lukashenko regime with further funding? If it is, how much and for what purposes? And are there plans to offer Belarus a similar format for cooperation in curbing illegal immigration as that which was established with Turkey in 2015?