

**Question for written answer E-005219/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)

Subject: Poland-Belarus border crisis as an attempt by the Belarusian regime to destabilise the situation in the EU

The mass surge of migrants at the Poland-Belarus border is an organised operation controlled by the Belarus authorities. It has been going on for weeks and is endangering the safety and stability of the EU. This has involved the Belarusian authorities using non-military means to manufacture a migration crisis and manipulate European public opinion. The EU should respond to this by effectively targeting specific individuals and entities of key importance to Belarus. The perception of the EU as an effective and credible organisation depends on this. It is worth noting that restrictive measures aimed at a third country, person or entity are an essential preventive tool of EU foreign policy. A country which does not respect established rules or accepted standards of international conduct must be prepared to face the adverse consequences of a response from the EU.

1. With regard to the Belarusian regime's use of non-military methods of hybrid warfare and the way in which it is using migrants to cause problems for the EU, does the Commission see a need to increase economic pressure on Belarus?
2. Does the Commission believe that this crisis is an attempt to undermine both the solidarity of Member States and the political effectiveness of the EU?
3. How does the Commission assess the risk of Russia using this crisis to push through the certification of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, in breach of the EU *acquis*, as well as to further increase its influence on EU decision-making concerning the energy sector?