

**Question for written answer E-005282/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët** (ID)

**Subject:** Role of Turkish Airlines in the migrant crisis orchestrated to destabilise Eastern Europe

On 23 November, in response to Belarus instrumentalising migrants at the Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian borders, the Commission proposed a 'new legal framework'. It will allow the EU to adopt 'targeted measures against transport operators that engage in or facilitate smuggling [...] people into the European Union'<sup>1</sup>. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen spoke again of the proposal to 'establish a blacklist for all modes and means of transport on the basis of international legislation'.

The Belarusian airline Belavia will be sanctioned, but the Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has also accused Turkey of being involved in this affair through its national airline Turkish Airlines<sup>2</sup>. The *New York Times*<sup>3</sup> backs this view with a series of reports from Iraq, as does the Turkish daily newspaper *BirGün*<sup>4</sup>, which states most of the migrants travelled through Istanbul and took planes operated by Turkish Airlines.

1. What does the Commission make of the above?
2. Does it intend to impose sanctions on this Turkish airline?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_6187](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6187)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/poland-turkey-synchronising-migration-crisis-russia>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/10/world/poland-belarus-border-migrants#migrants-fly-iraq-belarus>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.birgun.net/haber/signmaci-drami-365223>