Since the Commission’s response to P-005172/2021 in January 2022, the humanitarian situation at the external border with Belarus has de-escalated significantly thanks to EU efforts. We remain concerned about the situation of refugees and migrants still stranded in Belarus and continue assisting to the extent possible those directly impacted. There are significant access constraints for humanitarian partners in the border area. Fundamental values will continue to guide our actions, especially on the protection of migrants’ human rights. We are also monitoring the consequences of the sudden closure of the reception facility in Bruzgi, Grodno on 21 March 2022, which may lead to migrants being deprived of shelter.

The Commission strongly opposes any illegal pushback practices and takes all reports of pushbacks at the EU's external borders seriously. Member States have the direct responsibility to ensure a balance between protecting their borders and respecting fundamental rights. Violations of fundamental rights and acts of violence or mistreatment of migrants, asylum seekers or refugees are unacceptable and must be investigated by the responsible national authorities, who have the responsibility to investigate allegations, establish the facts and follow-up any wrongdoing. The Commission continues to act, within its competencies, to help address reports of unlawful activities at the EU’s external borders.

The situation at the EU borders with Belarus underlines the need for a fair and effective European migration and asylum system to respond to crisis situations. In this context, the establishment of independent and credible monitoring mechanisms in each Member State is therefore very important.