Question for written answer E-001410/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Frontex involvement in forced returns – Poland and Belarus

According to various press reports, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) has been helping Poland to deport some 1700 Iraqi nationals who had entered the EU across Poland’s border with Belarus. Any such Frontex support for forced returns triggers numerous obligations for the agency – under the Frontex Regulation (2019 version) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – in order to ensure that the fundamental rights of the individuals concerned are safeguarded. At the meeting of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on 13 January 2022, Commissioner Johansson furthermore said that Poland’s Emergency Powers Act was not in line with the Union acquis.

1. How many individuals have already been or are being returned from Poland by Frontex, and, prior to each operation, has Frontex been carrying out a preliminary human rights impact assessment with the fundamental rights officer?

2. How can Frontex be certain that, in spite of the situation regarding asylum law in Poland, it is not helping to bring about illegal removals or refoulements?

3. How are Frontex’s statistics on illegal border crossings collected, and how are successful asylum applicants removed from those statistics?

1 https://euobserver.com/world/153574