

**Question for written answer E-002086/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Russian aggression against Ukraine and the threat of another migration crisis

Russia's attack on Ukraine and its blockade of Ukrainian grain exports could lead to a global food crisis that would hit countries in Africa and the Middle East the hardest. The Russia-inspired migration crisis that Lukashenko engineered at the Polish-Belarusian border last year showed that Putin is capable of using migration as a weapon against the EU.

1. Is the Commission not concerned that one of the motives behind Russia's current actions in Ukraine might be to trigger another wave of irregular migration to the EU on a massive scale?
2. Is it monitoring the number of Russian and Belarusian tourist visas issued and air traffic to Russia and Belarus from Africa and the Middle East, so as to prevent a repeat of the situation at the Polish-Belarusian border?
3. In November 2021, Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas said in an interview with PAP: 'On migration, the EU needs to act more like an architect and less like a firefighter putting out fires. Engaging politically on the ground with third countries on migration should be the norm, not the exception.'¹ Has the Commission really kept up the diplomatic efforts it deployed in third countries during the 2021 migration crisis, and does it intend to counter Russian disinformation in African and Middle Eastern countries, for example with its own information campaigns warning against migration to the EU?

¹ <https://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/news%2C1007416%2Cwiceszef-ke-ten-kto-organizuje-hybrydowe-ataki-ma-do-czynienia-nie-z>