

**Question for written answer E-001089/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tomasz Frankowski (PPE)

Subject: Closure of the checkpoints on the border with Belarus at Bobrowniki and Kuźnica (PL)

Since 2021, thousands of migrants have been used as weapons at the Belarusian-Polish border in the Lukashenka's regime hybrid war against the EU. This regime-sponsored human trafficking is aimed at creating a humanitarian crisis in the EU and its Member States and to undermine the EU's security.

Most recently, Belarussia's authoritarian regime gave an extremely harsh sentence to Andrzej Poczobut, a Polish-Belarusian journalist whose reporting criticised the Belarusian regime. The lack of a transparent trial, his inhumane treatment and the sentence he was given are clear signs of the lack of respect for human dignity, European values and the rights of the Polish minority in Belarus.

In response to those actions, Poland closed its checkpoints on the border with Belarus at Bobrowniki and Kuźnica. Unfortunately, due to the closure of these border crossings many residents and businesses in the Polish border region now face bankruptcy.

In the light of former State-aid programmes:

1. Is the Commission monitoring the impact of recent border checkpoint closures on areas other than tourism?
2. Has the Polish government informed the Commission of its plan to compensate businesses impacted by the Bobrowniki closure?
3. Does the Commission plan to allow an extension of the EUR 21m State-aid programme to companies from sectors other than tourism suffering the effects of the recent closure of the border crossings?

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