

**Question for written answer E-001539/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Amendments to Lithuania's border protection law

On the 25 April, the Parliament of Lithuania passed a law legalising pushbacks, a practice already in use for at least a year. Persons who cross the border illegally can now be detained and deported without a right of appeal, both at the border and as far as five kilometres from it inside the country. The law contains a safeguard for people who are established to be fleeing an armed conflict or persecution, but proving this when being detained is impossible in practice.

The amendments have been criticised by representatives of international organisations, such as the Council of Europe High Commissioner for Human Rights¹ and Amnesty International's Europe Director².

Both the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the Commission have previously confirmed that pushbacks are illegal and that people have the right to apply for asylum.

1. Does the Commission consider this law legalising pushbacks to be in breach of EU and international legal norms?
2. Does the Commission consider the safeguards in the law adequate to protect the fundamental rights of refugees?
3. Is the Commission taking any steps to prevent illegal pushbacks at the external border of Lithuania?

Submitted: 11.5.2023

¹ <https://www.coe.int/nl/web/commissioner/-/lithuania-human-rights-should-be-at-the-centre-of-the-parliamentary-debate-on-migration-and-asylum>

² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/04/lithuania-legalizing-illegal-pushbacks-gives-green-light-to-torture/>