

**Question for written answer E-000718/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Janina Ochojska (PPE)**

**Subject:** Citizenship for Belarusians in exile

In July 2023 the Belarusian authorities amended the citizenship law to allow Belarusians living abroad charged with 'participation in an extremist organisation' or 'grave harm to the interests of Belarus' to be deprived of their citizenship. The measure also applies to Belarusians with no other citizenship.

Furthermore, the competences of consulates and diplomatic missions to issue, replace, or extend passports or identification cards of Belarusians abroad were abrogated in September 2023.

As a result, many exiled Belarusians, including members of the opposition, activists, human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers, currently fear statelessness or are forced to return to their home country, where they risk political prosecution and arbitrary arrest.

1. What is the Commission doing to support Belarusians in exile who are being relentlessly targeted by the authorities?
2. Is there any citizenship programme the Commission could create to protect Belarusians who are at risk of statelessness?

Submitted: 6.3.2024