

**Priority question for written answer P-003260/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Increased refugee flows at the border between Lithuania and Belarus

Lithuania is currently facing a significant increase in refugee flows coming through Belarus. In 2021, there are already twice as many refugees as there were in the whole of 2020. Meanwhile, the flow of asylum seekers in the EU+ (all EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland) remains relatively stable, according to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

Lithuania has not experienced high volumes of refugee flows so far, so the current situation is worrying, particularly in the light of allegations that an illegal migrant smuggling ring is operating in Belarus with the support of a tourism operator. There are fears that the flow of migrants could increase at any moment by at least several times.

In light of the foregoing:

1. What measures can be expected to help Lithuania?
2. Is funding foreseen for border reinforcement and monitoring, as well as for the management of migrant flows?
3. What other measures will be proposed to develop Lithuania's resources to address this problem?