

**Priority question for written answer P-003505/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Andrzej Halicki (PPE)**

**Subject:** Illegal crossing of the Polish-Belarusian border – people smuggling

Following the rigged presidential elections, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko repeatedly stated that Poland and Lithuania posed a threat to the security of Belarus. Ambassadors from both countries have left Minsk, while diplomatic relations and official cooperation have deteriorated. The Belarusian regime has also started to wage hybrid warfare in cooperation with human smugglers. On 7 July 2021, Polish border guards detained two groups that had illegally crossed the 'green border' with Belarus. Checks showed that the detainees did not have documents allowing them to stay in Poland, and they had crossed the border at a prohibited location. Since the beginning of 2021, 12 groups (184 persons) that had illegally crossed the Polish-Belarusian border have been detained in Podlasie. Over this period, at least 1363 illegal immigrants crossed the Lithuanian-Belarusian border, causing a migration crisis in Lithuania. Iraqis are flying legally on direct flights from Iraq into Minsk airport. They are then being transported to the Belarusian-Lithuanian border. Once they have crossed the 'green border' they are stopped by Lithuanian patrols, to whom they present their asylum applications, although most often their destination is western EU countries. Another crisis could soon occur on the Polish border.

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border? If so, what steps – both financial and operational – are planned to support the Polish border guards?
2. Are there plans for Frontex to provide support to Poland, for example by sending additional personnel to seal the border?