

**Priority question for written answer P-003756/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The Commission's reaction to the illegal migration of Iraqi citizens across the Belarusian-Lithuanian border

Between 1 July and 21 July 2021, Iraqi citizens were a dominant group of illegal migrants crossing the Belarusian-Lithuanian border and comprised more than half of the more than 1 600 illegal migrants. As of 21 July 2021, over 2 300 illegal migrants had crossed into Lithuania, or eleven times more than over the last three years. Illegal Iraqi migrants travel from Baghdad to Minsk by plane. 'Iraqi Airlines' intends to double weekly flights to Minsk starting from August 2021.

Given the seriousness of the illegal migration facilitated by the Lukashenka regime, which the Lithuanian Parliament has recognised as a hybrid attack against Lithuania and the EU:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the cooperation of the Iraqi authorities with the EU on this illegal migration crisis?
2. Are there any plans to review financial assistance from the Commission to Iraq as a reaction to the unilateral decisions of the Iraqi Government?
3. Is the Commission considering revising its existing air transport agreements with Iraq?