

**Priority question for written answer P-005522/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Provisional emergency measures addressing the situation at the EU's external border

For over three months there has been a humanitarian crisis at the Polish-Belarusian border. In response, the Commission has presented a proposal for a Council decision on provisional emergency measures for the benefit of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. This proposal reduces the standards for international protection guaranteed to asylum seekers. Firstly, it permits the extension of the border procedure for up to four months, while imprisoning asylum seekers in overcrowded detention centres. Secondly, it cancels the application of the Return Directive with respect to people whom a Border Guard officer has refused the right to apply for asylum and for people whose application has been rejected. In practice, the proposal gives these countries permission to expel migrants immediately to Belarus and legalises ongoing pushbacks. Knowing that the European Court of Human Rights has stated that Belarus cannot be considered a safe non-EU country for asylum seekers, the new law breaches the Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees.

1. Is the Commission aware that the proposed solutions give the Polish Government an opportunity to adopt regulations that are against international law?
2. What is its position on the illegal pushbacks of migrants occurring in Poland and what concrete steps is it taking to prevent this practice?