

**Priority question for written answer P-002415/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Yana Toom (Renew)

Subject: Urgent appeal for intervention amid potential rights infringements and deportations in Latvia

In 2022, Latvia decided to require the 20 000 Russian citizens permanently residing in the country to pass an exam demonstrating proficiency in Latvian as a sign of loyalty to the state, with all those who failed to do so facing deportation. Orders to leave the country were set to be sent to 10 000 individuals who have not yet passed the exam. However, these individuals have instead been issued with temporary residency permits as a short-term measure, granting them a further two years to attempt to pass the exam. This drastically changes their status and their rights, including their access to universal healthcare.

The majority of these individuals are pensioners and were either born in Latvia or have lived there for decades. When their permit expires, if they have still not passed the exam, they will be obliged to move to a country to which they have no link beyond a passport, being forced to leave their lives and families behind. In the meantime, their rights will be severely limited. I believe that it is important for the Commission to closely monitor situations that potentially infringe people's fundamental rights, especially within the context of an EU Member State.

Is the Commission aware of this situation and how will it ensure that fundamental rights are safeguarded?

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