



European
Commission

EU actions

to counter state-sponsored instrumentalisation of migrants at the EU external border

NOVEMBER 2021



President of the European Commission Ursula **von der Leyen** said:

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Attempts to destabilise the EU by instrumentalising people will not work. The EU is united and taking various actions to resolve the situation at the EU's external borders with Belarus. Today, we are presenting a new proposal to blacklist transport operators involved in smuggling or trafficking of people into the EU, as I first announced two weeks ago. We will never accept the exploitation of human beings for political purposes.

1 Intensive external action

- **Sanctions** against the Lukashenko regime
- Partial suspension of the **Visa Facilitation Agreement** with Belarus to target regime officials
- **Diplomatic engagement from Team Europe**
 - With countries of origin and transit of people at the border
 - Engagement with international airlines
 - Through multilateral organisations and positive cooperation on returns



CONCRETE IMPACT:

Countries of transit suspending flights
Iraq organising return flights for its nationals

- **Countering disinformation** (in countries of origin and transit and in communities at risk of being instrumentalised)
- Stepping up engagement with UN agencies to provide **humanitarian assistance** to migrants in Belarus and facilitate their repatriations

2 EU support to Member States affected



Immediate support to Lithuania and Latvia (in border management and migration management through EU agencies and financing)



€36.7 million in emergency aid to Lithuania



111 Frontex officers



82 EASO experts



2 Europol Guest Officers, 1 analyst and 1 specialist



Support from 19 Member States and Norway under the Civil Protection Mechanism



Frontex patrol and transport cars, helicopters and a thermal vision vehicle

- **Additional €200 million** made available by the Commission today for border management in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
- Further support available from **Frontex** for border management and returns
- Tackling migrant smuggling (action by **Europol**, Commission's recently proposed anti-smuggling action plan)
- Coordination through the **EU Migration Preparedness and Crisis Management Network** (Blueprint network)

3 Prevention: blacklisting transport operators

- When a transport operator is involved in facilitating smuggling or trafficking of people into the EU, putting at risk the lives of vulnerable people and the security of the Union external borders.
- The Commission may take measures such as:



Freezing or limiting current operations in the EU market



Withdrawing operating licenses



Prohibiting overflying the EU, calling on EU ports or making technical stops in the EU



Suspending rights to operate to, from and within the EU



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