

A humanitarian solution to the crisis on the Polish/Belarus border

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Rome, Italy on 11 December 2021:

Notes that:

- as a deliberate attempt to destabilise the European Union, the illegitimate regime of Alexander Lukashenko has sold tourist visas and shipped thousands of immigrants and refugees to the borders of Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Belarus, most of them trapped now on the Polish/Belarusian border;
- the Polish government has requested the aid of British military, whilst Russian paratroopers have been deployed near the border of Belarus;
- the Polish government has denied NGOs, lawyers and journalists access to the border and has denied the deployment of Frontex personnel;
- NGOs have proved that Polish authorities forcefully turn back civilians who cross the border, thereby violating international refugee law and EU-law;
- in November, EU adopted new sanctions on Belarus as a response to the crisis;
- Iraq and the Kurdish Regional Government have ensured that their citizens can be evacuated back to Iraq.

Recognises that:

- the situation on the borders of Belarus EU/ and Belarus/Ukraine demands continuous decisive action in preventing any further weaponisation of migration by illegitimate regime in Minsk;
- Poland, Lithuania and Latvia face severe challenges due this state-aided human trafficking of migrants to its borders;
- Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia have the right to safeguard its own borders.

Believes that:

- this situation demonstrates the need for a common EU migration and asylum policy;
- the actions of Lukashenko constitute an unacceptable act of hybrid warfare and must result in continued pressure on the regime;
- the wellbeing of the trapped civilians should be a priority;
- the EU asylum agency and Frontex are the best equipped agencies for the handling of a humanitarian border crisis.

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Calls for the EU and member states to:

- insist and enforce that member states uphold the rights for asylum seekers;
- insist upon the use of Frontex in Poland;
- grant unhindered access to journalists, NGOs and lawyers at the Polish/Belarus border;
- work for a withdrawal of all unnecessary military forces;
- strengthen the sanctions on Belarusian officials and introduce sectoral sanctions.

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