

Joint Statement of the President of the Republic of Estonia, the President of the Republic of Latvia and the President of the Republic of Lithuania on the situation on the EU's external border with Belarus

We, President of the Republic of Estonia Alar Karis, President of the Republic of Latvia Egils Levits and President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda, met in Vilnius on 15 November 2021. We have discussed the ongoing hybrid attack launched by the Belarusian regime, also shared our views on the deteriorating situation on the EU's external border with Belarus.

Taking into account the declared state of emergency on the Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish border with Belarus, the European Council Conclusions of 21 and 22 October 2021 and the Statement by the North Atlantic Council on the situation at the Poland–Belarus border of November 12, we the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, **jointly:**

- condemn the actions taken by the Lukashenko regime instrumentalizing migrants for political purposes.
- are concerned for the human rights and safety of the migrants currently in Belarus, who are being forced to breach the European Union border and urge to hold the Lukashenko regime accountable for human trafficking.
- express full support for actions taken by the Republic of Poland to protect the EU's external border.
- express their appreciation to the European Union institutions and agencies, in particular Frontex, and our fellow Member States for their support in this hybrid attack.
- call on the European Commission to implement the European Council conclusions of 21 and 22 October 2021 without delay by proposing the necessary changes to the EU legal framework on migration and asylum policy and providing adequate EU financial support for building physical barriers and infrastructure.
- appreciate NATO Allies' solidarity and support for remaining vigilant against the risk of further escalation and provocation by Belarus through continued instrumentalization of illegal migration and for monitoring the implications for the security of the Alliance.
- invite EU and NATO leaders to increase diplomatic efforts in the countries of origin of illegal migration.
- call on all relevant international organizations to actively engage in resolving the situation created by the Lukashenko regime. The ongoing serious situation was addressed and assessed by the UN Security Council, and we call for concrete actions by UNHRC, UNHCR and IOM.
- express readiness to continue supporting the Belarusian civil society.