



## STATEMENT ON THE EXTERNAL BORDER PROTECTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

16 September 2024  
Vilnius

We, the Chairs of the European Affairs Committees of our respective Parliaments,

*recalling* the Joint Statement ‘On Instrumentalisation of Migration’, initiated by the Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and signed by thirteen Chairs of the European Affairs Committees at the COSAC meeting on 28 November 2023, calling for support for decisive legal measures at European Union level to strengthen the security of the European Union and its Member States;

*taking into account* that the security and protection of the external borders of the European Union will be one of the key issues on the agenda during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union;

*taking very seriously* the responsibility of all the Member States to control who enters the Schengen area – the common area of free movement – and to remain vigilant, as the situation on the eastern borders of the European Union is still under growing pressure, especially with the increasing number of illegal border crossings from Belarus at the Polish border;

*considering* that the need to strengthen border controls has recently been explicitly recognised by an increasing number of Member States, such as Finland and Germany;

*recalling* that the diversity of threats at the external borders of the European Union is constantly expanding, including the intensification of illegal border crossings by unmanned aerial vehicles such as drones, which can be used not only for reconnaissance or smuggling, but also for active attacks;

*concluding* that the constant and growing challenges at the external borders of the European Union constitute a threat not only to the stability, sovereignty and national security of individual Member States, but also to the security of the European Union as a whole, which requires joint cooperation and creative solutions: until everyone is secure, no one is secure; until everyone is resilient, no one is resilient;

In the light of the above, we, the undersigned:

**invite** the institutions of the European Union and the Member States to show solidarity in the common need to strengthen the defensive and protective capacity of the external borders of the European Union and thus the security of the European Union as a whole;

**call upon** the future European Commission — in a joint effort with the Member States — to be open and proactive in identifying, proposing, supporting and implementing solutions in European Union and international legislation and funding to improve the protection of the external borders of the European Union, in particular its eastern borders, which should include:

- adaptation of the legal framework to the changed geopolitical and migration situation,

- introduction of up-to-date external border detection, warning and surveillance systems,
- adequate infrastructure for counter-drone systems,
- modern and forward-looking operational bases.

**Agnieszka Pomaska**

Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee  
Sejm of the Republic of Poland

**Bogdan Klich**

Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee  
Senat of the Republic of Poland

**Edmunds Cepurītis**

Chair of the European Affairs Committee  
Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

**Peeter Tali**

Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee  
Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia

**Žygimantas Pavilionis**

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs  
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania