



FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



**Joint Statement
of the Chairmen of the Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs of
the Visegrád Group on the Situation at the External Borders of the EU
with Belarus**

(22 November 2021, Budapest)

We, the Chairmen of the Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia held a meeting with our parliamentary partners from the Baltic States on the situation at the external borders of the EU with Belarus. Based on the discussion, we, the V4 Chairmen of the Committees on Foreign Affairs agreed on the following:

We strongly condemn the instrumentalisation of irregular migration artificially created as part of hybrid actions targeted against the EU for political purposes. Using human beings in need to advance political goals clearly violates fundamental European values and international norms. The actions of the Belarus leadership evidently and systematically endanger the lives of vulnerable people, which is unacceptable.

As members of the EU and NATO, we stand in solidarity with Poland, Latvia and Lithuania and support all necessary measures, in accordance with the fundamental values and norms of international law, taken in response to the current crisis that require close coordination with key international partners. The protection of the territory of sovereign states remains a priority, nevertheless free access for humanitarian aid and journalists should be allowed by Belarus. In addition, we acknowledge the efforts of all EU Member States to deal with irregular migration and protect the EU's external borders. We urge the EU to consider its strategic response to these situations in order to increase its effectiveness and to deter any future attempts to weaponize migration.

We emphasize that people who attempted to illegally cross our external border instead of making use of established procedures available to those seeking international protection, shall be returned. Comprehensive dialogues and partnerships with the countries of origin and transit are of crucial importance and benefit all sides, thus we underline the need for these countries to take necessary action, provide support and fully cooperate in readmissions and returns.

Members of the Visegrád Group remain vigilant to the risk of further escalation and provocation by Belarus at its borders with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, and continue to closely monitor the implications for the security of our region. We also call on the Belarussian regime to cease these actions immediately, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, according to the provisions of international law. We will continue to support a democratic, independent, sovereign, prosperous and stable Belarus. The voices and the will of the people of Belarus shall not be silenced.

Signatory partners to the Joint Statement:

Németh Zsolt

Chair of the Committee on Foreign
Affairs of the Hungarian National
Assembly

Pavel Fischer

Chair of the Committee on Foreign
Affairs, Defence and Security of the
Senate of the Czech Republic

Jaroslav Bžoch

Acting Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs
Committee of the Chamber of Deputies
of the Czech Republic

Bogdan Klich

Chair of the Foreign and European
Union Affairs Committee of the Senate
of the Republic of Poland

Marek Kuchciński

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Peter Osuský

Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs
Committee of the National Council of
the Slovak Republic