



## FAC Chairs Condemn Politically-Motivated People Trafficking

9 July 2021

We, the Chairs of our respective national parliament's Foreign Affairs Committees, condemn unequivocally the use of trafficked migrants by the illegal Lukashenka regime to undermine neighbouring states. Using the most vulnerable as leverage in a political dispute is shameful and draws comparison with the act of air piracy we witnessed in May.

The attempt to push migrants over the border of Lithuania is a criminal and inhuman act aimed at undermining the solidarity and support of the Lithuanian people towards those in Belarus who crave liberty and reject the stolen elections of last year. This is a new and pernicious assault on a European Union member state and NATO ally. It should be met with solidarity and a national, European and transatlantic response.

We call for a ban on flights to Belarus suspected of being used for state-organised people trafficking.

We call for sanctions on those involved in this state-organised people trafficking across international borders and the Lukashenka regime that controls it.

We call for a joint commitment to end the people trafficking across the EU borders, including support to Frontex, Border Management and Visa Instrument, European Asylum Support Office and other national and international agencies that can support Lithuania or other states targeted by this unconventional attack by the Lukashenka regime.

We call for joint EU and NATO statements directed to the governments of Iraq, Turkey, and any other state used by the Lukashenka regime in the abuse and instrumentalization of migrants, to end the practice and defend the dignity of those whose rights are being violated.

Sen Pavel Fischer  
Chair, Czech Republic

Norbert Röttgen MdB  
Chair, Germany

Marek Kuchcinski MP  
Chair, Poland

Ondřej Veselý MP  
Chair, Czech Republic

Charlie Flanagan TD  
Chair, Ireland

Oleksandr Merezhko  
Chair, Ukraine

Marko Mihkelson  
Chair, Estonia

Rihards Kols  
Chair, Latvia

Tom Tugendhat MP  
Chair, United Kingdom

Sen Christian Cambon  
Chair, France

Žygimantas Pavilionis  
Chair, Lithuania

Sen Bob Menendez  
Chair, United States

Jean-Louis Bourlanges MP  
Chair, France

Sen Bogdan Klich  
Chair, Poland