

STATEMENT ON INSTRUMENTALISATION OF MIGRATION

28 November 2023
Vilnius

We, the undersigned,

having regard to the fact that the negotiating mandate reached by the Council of the European Union clearly defines the concept of instrumentalisation of migration in the Regulation addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum, as well as in the Schengen Borders Code;

whereas the situation remains tense at the eastern external borders of the European Union. Over the past few years, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and recently Finland, have been confronted with hybrid warfare, namely the influx of irregular migration organised by Russia and the Belarussian regime supported by it;

express the unwavering respect for the values of the European Union and solidarity as the Member States strengthen and develop common measures to combat illegal migrant smuggling;

underline that we must pay equal attention to combating migrant smuggling on all main illegal migratory routes, for the result of long-lasting prevention;

emphasize that for comprehensive protection of human rights, we must develop measures to counter disinformation campaigns targeted at third-country nationals with the aim of engaging them in instrumentalisation of migration;

urge to be mindful of the geopolitical situation Europe is currently facing and the real threats posed by the third countries;

note that migrant instrumentalisation is a form of hybrid aggression that is directly linked to and encouraging illegal migrant smuggling. We must therefore address instrumentalisation of migration in law and in practice;

call for support for the decisive legal measures at European Union level to strengthen the security of the European Union and its Member States, while simultaneously protecting the rights of migrants, by safeguarding them from fraudulent engagement in migrant instrumentalisation, and to ensure the effective functioning of the Schengen area;

call on the institutions of the European Union (the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission) and **encourage** to ensure that during trilogues with the European Parliament the provisions on instrumentalisation of migration are retained in the amendments to the Schengen Borders Code and in Regulation addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum.

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