

Question for written answer E-004472/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: EU citizens and their family members unable to travel from Belarus to Lithuania

Recent restrictions introduced by the Lithuanian Government¹ on travel across the border between Lithuanian and Belarus have made it effectively impossible to cross it, despite official regulations providing for this possibility for EU citizens and their family members.

Although the Lithuanian authorities have formally stated that the Medininkai–Kamenny Log crossing point is open to EU citizens, travel is de facto impossible owing to the lack of public transport between Minsk and Vilnius, the ban on vehicles with Belarus number plates crossing the border and the fact it cannot be crossed on foot. Even holders of valid documents (EU passport, residence permit, Schengen visa) therefore encounter extreme difficulties or disproportionate costs in returning to the EU, often being forced to make exhausting and costly detours via third countries (such as Turkey and the United Arab Emirates).

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. Whether it is aware that the current restrictions make it practically impossible for EU citizens and their family members legally residing in the EU to cross the border?
2. Whether it considers these restrictions to be compatible with Articles 21 and 45 TFEU, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and Directive 2004/38/EC?
3. Whether it intends to urge the Lithuanian authorities to uphold, as a matter of urgency, the right of free movement of EU citizens and their family members, including when arriving from third countries such as Belarus?

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¹ <https://www.viaggiaresicuri.it/find-country/country/LTU>