

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002664/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Krzysztof Brejza (PPE)
(1 July 2025)

Subject: Andrzej Poczobut — concrete EU action for his release

Andrzej Poczobut, a Polish-Belarusian journalist and activist, has been imprisoned in Belarus since 2021 on politically motivated charges. He was sentenced to eight years in a penal colony for defending the rights of the Polish minority and free speech. He is reportedly being held in extremely harsh conditions, denied adequate medical care, and subjected to psychological pressure.

The EU has issued statements condemning his detention, but no visible progress has been made. In light of his deteriorating health and the broader repression in Belarus:

1. What concrete diplomatic actions has the Commission taken, together with the European External Action Service, to secure his release?
2. Has the EU engaged in or initiated any form of direct or indirect dialogue with the Belarusian authorities or third-party intermediaries?
3. Is the Commission considering any tangible incentives (e.g. humanitarian aid, sanctions adjustments, prisoner exchanges) to facilitate his release?

Declarations of concern are no longer enough. We expect precise, results-oriented action to protect European citizens and values abroad.

Submitted: 1.7.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(18 August 2025)

The EU remains deeply concerned about the politically motivated detention of the Polish-Belarusian journalist and reports of his deteriorating health. The situation of political prisoners in Belarus remains a priority for the EU.

The EU has consistently raised this case and those of other political prisoners both publicly, through statements by the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) and the Commission, and privately, in direct communication with the Belarusian authorities, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners.

The EU has also engaged in dialogue with international partners, and has addressed the issue in multilateral fora, including through EU-led resolutions at the United Nations Human Rights Council.

In response to the continued systemic human rights violations in Belarus, the EU has adopted multiple packages of restrictive measures, as part of a gradual and principled approach.

The EU will continue to apply pressure on the regime, press for the release of all political prisoners, and to provide financial, legal, medical and relocation assistance to victims of repression, including political prisoners, in line with its policy objectives, as outlined in the Council conclusions on Belarus ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6737-2024-INIT/en/pdf>;
belarus.pdf.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/46076/council-conclusions-on-belarus.pdf>