

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004472/25
to the Commission**

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(11 November 2025)

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

Recent restrictions introduced by the Lithuanian Government ⁽¹⁾ 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?

Submitted: 11.11.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(6 January 2026)

Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1865 amended Regulation 765/2006 to prohibit import into the EU of vehicles falling under CN code '8703', i.e. private motor cars from Belarus.

Article 1(5) of Regulation No 765/2006 provides that the competent authorities may authorise, under such conditions as they deem appropriate, the entry into the EU of a vehicle falling under CN code 8703 not intended for sale and owned by, among others, EU citizens or their family members resident in Belarus if driving the vehicle into the EU for strict personal use.

Restrictions on the entry of vehicles bearing Belarusian registration plates into Lithuania target vehicles, not EU citizens or their family members. These measures are enforced by the competent Lithuanian authorities pursuant to the national sanctions framework established by Government Order No 535, which ensures uniform and proportionate execution of EU sanctions. EU citizens retain their right to enter the territory by alternative means even where a Belarus-registered vehicle cannot be admitted.

Lithuania keeps one border crossing point with Belarus open, and any practical difficulties arising from transport availability or sanctions on Belarus-registered vehicles should not be considered a limitation on the right of entry for EU nationals and their family members.

The Commission will continue to monitor the situation and ensure that all measures are applied proportionately and in full conformity with EU law.

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