

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003175/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(30 July 2026)

Subject: Latvia as an alleged target of ‘hybrid warfare’ waged using migration

Latvia is increasingly deploying military assets at its border with Belarus and repeatedly refers to irregular migration as a tool in ‘hybrid warfare’. Other EU external border states, like Poland, use this term too. At the same time, the Commission is investing heavily in border infrastructure and considering monitoring such incidents through Eurosur. What is unclear are the criteria that the Commission itself is using to perform or evaluate such classifications.

1. What does the Commission make of the fact that Latvia (and other Member States) repeatedly classify migration at the border with Belarus as ‘hybrid warfare’ and does it share this assessment?
2. In the past five years, along which EU external borders — broken down by Member State and period — has the Commission itself classified migration-related incidents as a ‘hybrid threat’ or ‘hybrid attack’?
3. On what specific criteria does the Commission base such a classification, and how do these criteria differ from those applied by Frontex or individual Member States?

Submitted: 30.7.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(22 September 2026)

The communication on countering hybrid threats from the weaponisation of migration and strengthening security at the EU’s external borders⁽¹⁾ refers to ‘hybrid warfare tactics’ in this specific context. In the Commission’s view, Belarus’s instrumentalisation of migrants, together with other destabilising actions, forms part of a broader hybrid campaign against the EU.

The Commission’s assessment of hybrid threats examines several aspects, such as evidence of state-actors involvement, deliberate instrumentalisation of migrants, organised facilitation of movements, and links to broader coercive, destabilising or disinformation activity. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency uses its own operational risk-analysis framework, while Member States may apply national security classifications.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2024) 570 final.