### Introduction

# Instrumentalisation of migrants Case studies: Belarus and Poland



Leaders of the G7 and NATO gathered on November 15, 2022 at the occasion of the G20 in Indonesia, after the strike of a missile in Poland earlier that day. Many feared an escalation of the Russian intervention in Ukraine.

How an entity such as the EU who constructed itself along fundamental values of Human Rights and Solidarity reacts to attempts of instrumentalizing migrants on its external borders?

# Introduction

**Instrumentalisation of migrants Case studies: Belarus and Poland** 

### I) The return of hard borders in the Schengen era

I.a) Direct consequences of migrants' instrumentalisation by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. I.b) A long term objective : destabilizing the EU (security, identity and legal issues).

### **II)** Migrants: a new weapon of mass destruction for rogue states

II.a) Strong response from the different border states: walls, drastic controls and armed forces.

II.b) The European Union's economic sanctions reaction. II.c) The implementation of a reform through the "Pact on Immigration and Asylum".



### I) The return of hard borders in the Schengen era.

### I.a) The direct causes and consequences of the migrant's instrumentalisation by the Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.





"Using human beings in an act of hostility" - Ylva Johansson

## I) The return of hard borders in the Schengen era.

I.b) A long term objective : destabilizing the EU (security, identity and legal issues).



issues

Weakened European cooperation

> Rise of xenophobic discourses in some member countries

"The growing role of state actors (...) who use migration flows as a tool for political purposes to destabilize the European Union or its member states" - The European Commission

### Stability, security and hybrid threat

**Pointing out** shortcomings in the management of the Schengen area

Challenging European law

II) Migrants: a new weapon of mass destruction for rogue states. II.a) A strong response from the different border states: walls, drastic controls and armed forces.

"Poland must control the border of the Schengen area in full respect of human rights and international conventions. And in this it does not have the right to turn back people who have had access to its territory if they show the intention of seeking asylum" - Yves Pascouau

14 October 2021 Validation of an amendment that makes the refoulement of migrants legal **02 September 2021** Poland established a state of emergency

January 2022 **Beginnings of the** construction of a wall





II) Migrants: a new weapon of mass destruction for rogue states. II.b) The European Union reaction with its economic sanctions.



Five packages of sanctions. = 195 individuals and 35 entities. Extension by the Council of the restrictive measures for another year.



### To put pressure on the Belarusian political leadership.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSELL DE L'EUROPE

II) Migrants: a new weapon of mass destruction for rogue states.

II.c) The implementation of a reform through the "Pact on Immigration and Asylum".



refugees considered as having little chance of obtaining it.

organize more humane and accompanied returns.

# **Debates and disagreements about this**





# Conclusion

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