

R1 End the Death Zone: Against the Inhumane Treatment of Asylum Seekers on the Belarusian Border

Proposer: Protests, Ostra Ziele?
Agenda item: 1. Resolutions

Motion text

1 Human and migrant rights are under attack in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and
2 Belarus. The illegitimate former president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko is
3 using migrants and asylum seekers from the Middle East as hybrid war weapons
4 against Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Europe as a whole.

5 The regime in Belarus explicitly attacks the Baltic States due to their support
6 for the democratic opposition. This weaponization of human lives is another
7 disgusting attack against human rights by the illegitimate Belarusian regime,
8 which for years has attacked activists that are against Lukashenko's
9 dictatorship.

10 Disturbingly, the response by the Latvian, Polish, and Lithuanian governments is
11 just as inhumane as Lukashenko had planned and expected. The migrants are forced
12 to stay in the border zone for months without shelter. There are many reports of
13 violence against migrants by border guards on both sides. More people have died
14 on the Polish-Belarusian border in less than two years than people trying to
15 cross the border that used to split Germany during the Cold War.

16 Unfortunately, it is very hard to understand the situation fully, as governments
17 are not letting activists and journalists reach the border zone due to the state
18 of emergency. The Latvian government started an investigation against an NGO
19 called *I Want to Help Refugees* for providing humanitarian help to the migrants
20 stuck on the border. The Polish government first abused the legal possibilities
21 by introducing a state of emergency on the border and then attacked independent
22 organizations, media, and activists by creating strategic lawsuits against their
23 participation and providing help, as well as using public media to spread their
24 political propaganda about this situation. The Lithuanian border guard started
25 an investigation against an NGO for assisting migrants on the border on
26 assumption that this is a case of people smuggling. These all are clear breaches
27 of democratic principles by these governments.

28 Right-wing and far-right parties have used this crisis to continue their anti-
29 migrant policy and increase the dehumanization of migrants and refugees.

30 This is explicitly noticeable during the election period. Latvia, Lithuania, and
31 Poland are now building expensive border walls, which are causing huge
32 environmental risks. The fear and increasing dehumanization have moved the focus
33 away from the victims through this shameless power play to the exaggerated idea
34 of safety risks.

35 Nothing – even the tallest and strongest wall – can stop a person who
36 desperately seeks asylum or a better future. But the cruelty and breaking of all
37 the rights performed by these governments clearly show us the consequences of
38 cynical political play that ignores the importance of human life.

39 Activists and local societies are doing their best to help families find their
40 loved ones that went missing on the border. They are their only hope. Replacing
41 the government services and risking their own lives, they fight to restore
42 dignity and an elementary sense of humanity and safety to migrants and refugees.

43 The Federation of European Young Greens calls for an immediate end to the
44 inhumane treatment of migrants and refugees by the Belarusian regime and
45 governments of Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. We urge them to find a humane
46 solution to this crisis and to allow access to the border zone. We appeal once
47 again to the European Union to stop ignoring this situation. FYEG stands in
48 solidarity with all those affected by this crisis and will continue to work
49 towards a world where the rights and dignity of all people, regardless of their
50 background or status, are respected and protected.