

Committee: United Nations Security Council

Agenda: Belarus Border Conflict

State: China

Delegate: Çağan Karacan



The Belarus–European Union border crisis is a migrant crisis consisting of an influx of tens of thousands of immigrants, primarily from Iraqi Kurdistan, with smaller groups hailing from elsewhere in Asia and from parts of Africa, to Lithuania, Latvia and Poland via those countries' borders with Belarus. The crisis was triggered by the severe deterioration in Belarus–European Union relations, following the 2020 Belarusian presidential election, the 2020–2021 Belarusian protests, the Ryanair Flight 4978 incident and subsequent sanctions on Belarus, as well as the attempted forced repatriation of Olympic sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya from Tokyo, Japan.

In 2020, Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus since July 1994, claimed victory in that year's presidential election, which was widely considered rigged by European democracies and independent observers. The official results contained implausible discrepancies, particularly at the nationwide level but also in many individual electoral districts. Based on exit polls, Lukashenko might have lost the elections to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. The Lukashenko regime had been widely accused of electoral fraud in previous elections, including by Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) observers, who were often restricted from monitoring election conduct.

By mid-summer 2021, reports began emerging that Iraqi travel agencies were organizing "tourist trips" to Belarus at significantly reduced prices. Belarus' visa rules were also made

much looser in August, allowing citizens of Middle Eastern countries to be issued a Belarusian visa on arrival in Minsk. Belarusian travel agencies began promoting "tours" to Belarus from Iraq. At the same time, the weekly number of flights to Minsk increased significantly. Iraqi Airways doubled the frequency of its Baghdad-Minsk flights; Belavia, Belarus's state-owned airline, also provided more offers to Middle East flyers. A journalist from Komsomolskaya Pravda noted that while the flight from Baghdad to Minsk carried about 180 people, only 5 people flew in the opposite direction. On 2 August, Iraqi Airways announced three new direct flights to Minsk from the Iraqi cities of Basra, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Another major air route was the Istanbul—Minsk flight operated by Belavia and Turkish Airlines. On 28 October, Syrian Cham Wings Airlines, after having made several charter flights, launched a daily connection from Damascus to the Belarusian capital.

Here is a picture in order to understand the crisis better;



China's stance on protests in Belarus was, however, not at all surprising, given Beijing's long-standing opposition to the so-called "color revolutions". Due to domestic but also foreign policy considerations, Beijing has often portrayed democratization movements abroad as bringing chaos and instability. This is also the case of Belarus, where the Global Times insinuated it was "outside forces" standing behind the anti-Lukashenka protests that were "creating division and instability in the country." This view was confirmed by the Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister, who claimed that Moscow and Beijing were meant to cooperate on fighting color revolutions. While China opposes the external pressure aimed at the change of the Belarusian political system and the rapid transformations sparked by revolutions in general, Minsk's alienation from the West is not in China's very economic interest. Belarus is an important component of China's flagship Belt and Road Initiative, for it is the so-called "bridge" between Europe and Asia. In 2015, Xi Jinping himself emphasized

the country's importance by referring to Belarus as "an essential part in Europe-Asia land transportation."

We, as China wish that the committee will come up with a peaceful resolution through diplomatic means by also respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and borders and we wish to have a fruitful debate with the other delegates.

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