



EEA Statement on the situation on the Belarus – EU border

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The Belarussian government is using human beings as pawns in their desire to push back against the European Union (EU) for imposing sanctions upon the regime. They are choosing to invite and facilitate the travel of migrants from the Middle East to Belarus and then taking them to the EU border.

It is understandable that Latvia, Lithuania and Poland want to prevent migrants from crossing that border. And they do not want to do anything to encourage more people to come.

However, 1000s of men, women and children are now suffering terribly: those still in Belarus, living without food or shelter. And those who have crossed into the EU are having to hide in the forest or are being kept in terrible conditions, often in closed camps.

As winter sets in, this cannot continue.

Lives of human beings are far more important than politics.

A humanitarian catastrophe is developing. Terrible and tragic stories are emerging of how these migrants are faring. Exactly what is happening, however, is unclear because, in some cases, outside observers and NGOs are being kept away.

The European Evangelical Alliance calls upon all governments involved and the European Union as a whole to remember the human beings at the heart of this matter.

These people deserve compassion. They must not be ignored or demonised. When human beings are suffering, it is not enough only to engage in blame games, imposing more sanctions or building fences.

Efforts are being made to disrupt this deliberate and shameful transfer of migrants from the Middle East to the border. But those who are already stuck on either side of the border must receive urgent and adequate humanitarian aid.

Those who have crossed the border should then go through a fair and transparent process to assess whether they should be allowed to stay or be repatriated.

Latvia, Lithuania and Poland need the appropriate assistance, and should accept the assistance, of other nations to respond compassionately and fairly to this crisis.

Solidarity between European nations is urgently needed for them, just as it is needed for Mediterranean nations who have received millions of migrants and refugees.

The European Evangelical Alliance calls upon Christians to pray that this crisis can swiftly be resolved in a way which upholds Europe's Judaeo-Christian values of human dignity, justice, compassion and solidarity.



Thomas Bucher
General Secretary
European Evangelical Alliance

The Evangelical Alliance was originally created in London in 1846. A number of founding members were representing European countries. The European Evangelical Alliance (EEA) was founded in 1951. The EEA exists to foster unity and evangelical identity and provide a voice and platform to 23 million European evangelical Christians. The mission of the EEA is to CONNECT for common purpose, EQUIP for integral mission and REPRESENT with a united voice. It is a grassroots movement from all Protestant traditions present in 36 European countries. The Brussels office of the EEA promotes active citizenship of its constituency and represents it to the European Institutions.