

**Question for written answer**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: Belarus state-sponsored air piracy and terrorism

Europe cannot stand by idly while a dictator engages in acts of state-sponsored air piracy and terrorism. The deviation of a passenger plane by the Belarusian dictator Lukashenko is an attack on Belarusian and European citizens alike. In light of such outrageous events, Mr. Borrell, we would like to know in clear, direct, and unequivocal language, what are the measures you are going to take to represent the Union's interests and values. Specifically:

1. How are you going to sanction the dictator for this severe act of piracy, beyond mere rhetoric? Specifically, will you seek immediate coordinated sanctions against Lukashenko and his acolytes? Will the EU suspend all European air traffic over and into Belarus?

2. Concretely, how will you act to secure the immediate release of Roman Protasevich, his girlfriend, and other persons detained in this act of terrorism? What is your message to all European travellers who rely on the Union to ensure their safety and security when travelling?

3. Such an act could not have been conducted without the tacit approval or even encouragement of Lukashenko's main ally, Vladimir Putin. Concretely, how is this going to be reflected in your position towards the Kremlin regime?