

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 August 2021 16:55
To: Euro-Ombudsman
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Strategic inquiry OI/4/2021/MHZ - Consultation

Dear Ms. Rosita Hickey,

With my apologies for the delay in my reply, I would like to thank you very much for your letter and for informing us of the Ombudsman's decision on the own-initiative inquiry OI/5/2020/MHZ, on which we have also reported in our [newsletter](#) earlier this month.

In light of the ongoing Ombudsman's inquiry on Frontex compliance with fundamental rights obligations, we would also like to express our concerns about [Frontex's involvement](#) at the borders between Lithuania and Latvia with Belarus. Over the past weeks, civic society organisations and media outlets have reported several instances of [pushbacks](#) at the EU-Belarus border, including to [Iraq](#). Furthermore, [legal reforms](#) fast-tracked by the Lithuanian Parliament impose restrictions to fundamental rights, such as limited access to medical consultation; detention of migrants, including children, for up to 6 months without legal basis; and no right to appeal. In our opinion, these events should trigger an application of Article 46 of the EBCG Regulation 2019/1896.

I am also copying my colleague [REDACTED] who leads our work on detention and returns, for follow-up. We would be glad to discuss this further at your convenience.

Best wishes

Michele LeVoy

From: Euro-Ombudsman <EO@ombudsman.europa.eu>

Sent: Friday, 9 July 2021 16:31

To: Michele LeVoy [REDACTED]

Subject: Strategic inquiry OI/4/2021/MHZ - Consultation

Dear Ms LeVoy,

Please find attached the Ombudsman's letter regarding the Strategic inquiry OI/4/2021/MHZ.

Best regards,



European Ombudsman

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