

15 August 2024

Nordic-Baltic Ministers

Ms Ylva Johansson
Commissioner for Home Affairs
European Commission

The decision of Hungary to extend the system of national cards to citizens of Russia and Belarus

Dear Commissioner,

Russia continues its unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. There is a constant stream of news of atrocities and repeated violations of international law.

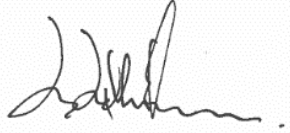
In addition, Russia has intensified its aggressive hybrid actions against the EU and Schengen countries. These include sabotage, acts of violence, provocations at borders and instrumentalisation of migrants. We all concluded together at the recent NATO Summit that these actions constitute a threat to our security.

It is therefore with concern that we have followed the recent news regarding the decision of Hungary to extend its system of national cards for citizens of Russia and Belarus. Regardless of whether it falls under national or Union competence, we are worried that this decision may constitute a serious security risk to all Member States, as you highlighted in your letter to Minister of Interior Sándor Pintér.

We welcome your engagement on this issue. Hungary's reply, your analysis and the next steps will be of the utmost importance in ensuring our national security. To assess the security risks, we would be grateful for any additional information that the Commission could share after having received the requested information from the Hungarian authorities.

We remain available to assist in any way in the work ahead and would suggest that the Council is kept informed on this matter as well.

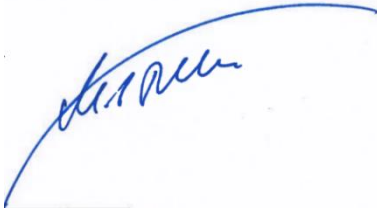
Yours faithfully,



Lars Løkke Rasmussen
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Denmark



Kaare Dybvad Bek
Minister for Immigration and Integration
Denmark



Margus Tsahkna
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Estonia



Lauri Läänemets
Minister of the Interior
Estonia



Elina Valtonen
Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Mari Rantanen
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Guðrún Hafsteinsdóttir
Minister of Justice
Iceland



Baiba Braže
Minister of Foreign Affairs
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Rihards Kozlovskis
Minister for the Interior
Latvia



Gabrielius Landsbergis
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania



Agnė Bilotaitė
Minister of the Interior
Lithuania



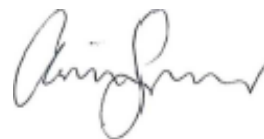
Espen Barth Eide
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Emilie Enger Mehl
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Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Maria Malmer Stenergard
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