



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR



Ministry of the Interior
Finland



lekšlietu ministrija



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



Ministry of the Interior and Administration
Republic of Poland

Ms Henna Virkkunen
Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

Mr Magnus Brunner
European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration

29 August 2025

Dear Vice-President,

Dear Commissioner,

More than four years have passed since the beginning of a hybrid attack by Belarus, backed by Russia, against the Member States at EU's external borders. We are also counting a fourth year of the unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine, which not only led to hundreds of thousands of deaths, forced millions of people to leave their country to find temporary homes in the EU and elsewhere, but also created new serious security challenges for Europe as a whole.

In the face of these challenges, we have consistently felt the steadfast support from the European Commission – whether through financial assistance, political endorsement, or the encouragement expressed during our meetings and discussions in different fora. We sincerely thank the European Commission for this support and cooperation. It helped us achieve tangible results in strengthening the protection of the EU's external borders, improving migration management, building resilience and preparedness, improving the response capabilities, and enhancing the security of the Special (Kaliningrad) Transit Scheme. That it is highly appreciated both by our governments and societies.

However, the geopolitical environment remains tense, with security challenges continuing to persist and evolve. The variety of hybrid threats is increasing – from weaponisation of migrants to cyber-attacks, from arsons to sabotage of critical infrastructure. Recently, we have been faced with a new security threat – airspace violations. It includes not only tobacco smuggling by meteorological balloons but also drones flying into the territories of our states and in several of the recent cases – carrying explosives, falling in the military training area (which doubtfully is by a coincidence) or crashing and exploding in the cornfield near the village, posing an imminent threat to the civilian population.

The eastern flank of the EU has become a testing ground for increasingly active use of hybrid warfare tactics of Russia and its allies, where conventional pressure, disinformation, and asymmetric means are employed to challenge the resilience of the EU and NATO. Although each of such attacks works like immunisation, eventually boosting our resilience, they also underscore the need for constant vigilance and enhanced capabilities in both detection, prevention and response.

In this context, improving the aerial surveillance of EU's external borders is an important area for urgent action. Most of the EU's external land border in our region is already secured with physical barriers and modern surveillance systems. Yet these measures alone are insufficient to effectively detect and prevent airspace violations, therefore, strengthening our surveillance, drone and anti-drone capabilities clearly emerged as a high priority task. To address this challenge effectively, it is essential that adequate funding be allocated, as the threat is expected to persist and intensify rather than diminish.

Possibility of receiving the EU financial support would substantially contribute to our joint efforts in accomplishing this task. Therefore, in addition to other priorities, we would like to highlight the importance of inclusion of the development of aerial surveillance systems and drone and anti-drone capabilities into the priorities of the Thematic Facility under the 2021-2027 Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI). We confirm our readiness to apply when the call for specific action under the thematic facility of the BMVI is issued by the European Commission. Should opportunities for funding under the BMVI be limited, we ask that consideration be given to supporting these measures through other available financial instruments in the context of the current Multiannual Financial Framework.

We stand ready to provide any necessary information clarifying and detailing the specific needs for the development of drone and anti-drone capabilities.

We would also like to express the appreciation for the attention given to the specific situation of the Member States bordering Russia and Belarus in the context of the European Commission's proposals on future Multiannual Financial Framework.

We are convinced of the European added value of investments in security measures in our region, as these will significantly contribute to ensuring situational awareness, preparedness, resilience, and the overall security of the Union.

Minister of the Interior
of the Republic of Estonia



Igor Taro

Minister of the Interior
of the Republic of Finland



Mari Rantanen

Minister of the Interior
of the Republic of Latvia



Rihards Kozlovskis

Minister of the Interior
of the Republic of Lithuania



Vladislav Kondratovič

Minister of the Interior
and Administration
of the Republic of Poland



Marcin Kierwiński