

Facebook fake news fuels EU crisis

Belarusian ruler Alexander Lukashenko's people smuggling network uses front companies in the Middle East, clandestine money transfers, and fake Facebook reports promising entry to the EU



1 People smugglers: Create fake accounts on Facebook and Telegram posing as migrants, promising easy entry to EU via Belarus

2 Travel agencies: Smugglers in Belarus and Middle East organise one-way flights to Minsk. **Typical cost of \$14,000 per family**

3 Visas: Belarusian consulates in Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq supply tourist visas. **Fees have risen from \$1,200 to \$2,500**

4 Minsk: Up to 400 migrants arrive every day – currently 40 flights per week from Middle East



Belarus state carrier Belavia now operates flights from Antalya to Grodno and Brest

Jul-Nov: 600 flights from Middle East to Minsk – most by Belavia



5 Border: Belarusian authorities arrange journey to border – troops cut through border fencing at night to allow migrants into Poland

6 Smugglers: Journey from Belarus border to Germany takes 14 hours and costs \$2,000 per migrant