Latvian and Estonian officials discuss measures to combat irregular migration

Ministers of the Interior from Latvia and Estonia discussed cooperation on border security and migration management, with Estonia continuing to provide practical support to the Latvian State Border Guard in response to pressure from irregular migration at the Latvia–Belarus border. In 2025, 22 Estonian officials supported Latvia, increasing to 71 in 2026, including border surveillance experts, dog handlers and criminal investigation specialists.

Latvia also receives support from Finland and Lithuania, alongside assistance from the National Armed Forces, State Police and the State Security Service. Since 10 August 2021, Latvian authorities have prevented 51,840 attempted illegal crossings at the Latvia–Belarus border, including 11,212 in 2026 as of 21 September 2026.

On 11 August 2026, Latvia launched Operation VILKATIS, a coordinated response to instrumentalised irregular migration from Belarus, involving the State Border Guard, State Police, State Security Service and the National Armed Forces.

Source(s)

- State Border Guard | Valsts robežsardze (22 September, 2026), Iekšlietu ministrijas un Valsts robežsardzes amatpersonas ar Igaunijas iekšlietu ministru pārrunā īstenotos pasākumus cīņā ar nelegālo migrāciju [Officials from the Ministry of the Interior and the State Border Guard discuss measures implemented to combat illegal migration with the Estonian Minister of the Interior], https://www.rs.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/iekslietu-ministrijas-un-valsts-robezsardzes-amatpersonas-ar-igaunijas-iekslietu-ministru-parruna-istenotos-pasakumus-cina-ar-nelegalo-migraciju

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