Government extends restrictions to apply for asylum at the Polish-Belarusian border until January 2027

On 17 November 2026, the government extended the restriction on the right to submit applications for international protection by persons crossing the Polish-Belarusian border, a measure that has been continuously in place since 27 March 2025. This measure is coupled with the prohibition on remaining in a designated zone along the Polish-Belarusian border, which has been in force since June 2024, and reportedly aims to curb the instrumentalisation of third-country nationals by Belarus.

The extension was authorised by a resolution of the Sejm on 6 November 2026 (Journal of Laws, item 1138) and subsequently approved by a regulation of the Council of Ministers on 13 November 2026 (Journal of Laws, item 1501). The restriction remains in force for an additional 60 days, until 16 January 2027.

The restriction is based on Article 33(5) of the Asylum Act, which provides exceptions to the restriction. Unaccompanied minors, pregnant women, persons requiring special treatment due to age, health or other needs, individuals at real risk of serious harm in Belarus, and Belarusian nationals may still apply for international protection at the border.

Source(s)

- Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców (17 November, 2026), Ograniczenie prawa do złożenia wniosku o ochronę międzynarodową [Limitation of the right to apply for international protection], https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/ograniczenie-prawa-do-zlozenia-wniosku-o-ochrone-miedzynarodowa
- Ministry of the Interior and Administration | Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji (16 November, 2026), Czasowe i terytorialne zawieszenie prawa do azylu przy granicy polsko-białoruskiej przedłużone o następne 60 dni [Temporary and territorial suspension of asylum rights at the Polish-Belarusian border extended for another 60 days], https://www.gov.pl/web/mswia/czasowe-i-terytorialne-zawieszenie-prawa-do-azylu-przy-granicy-polsko-bialoruskiej-przedluzone-o-nastepne-60-dni4

Related development(s)

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Date of development

17.11.2026

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Poland

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Development type

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