

**Question for written answer E-003754/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: The migration, border and security implications of enlargement

The Commission has acknowledged that enlargement would create new external borders and new challenges for their protection and control. The Commission stresses the need for candidate countries to strengthen their border-management capacity and migration and asylum systems and improve their alignment with EU visa policy¹.

Against this background:

1. How does the Commission assess the potential effects of possible future EU membership for the Western Balkan candidates on the EU's external borders, migration pressures and internal security?
2. What mechanisms or transitional arrangements is the Commission considering regarding the free movement of persons and the implementation of the EU asylum *acquis* in connection with enlargement to the Western Balkans?
3. Has the Commission estimated the additional budgetary resources that would be required by Frontex, Europol and the EU Agency for Asylum as a result of enlargement to the Western Balkans, and will it publish country-specific risk and impact assessments?

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¹ Commission communication of 20 March 2024 on pre-enlargement reforms and policy reviews (COM(2024)0146).