

**Question for written answer E-004309/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Arash Saeidi (The Left)

Subject: Proportionality of German border controls and impact on cross-border rail traffic

Germany's reintroduction and prolongation of controls at its internal land borders, which directly affect rail connections to and from neighbouring countries, is now leading to repeated train stops and significant delays for passengers. The situation is aggravated by the German services' lack of resources, forcing them to stop trains at the borders when carrying out checks.

These measures are causing considerable exasperation and high costs for cross-border commuters and the operators, who are faced with the impact of these actions on their daily mobility.

While no one would dispute that states have the right to organise such controls where circumstances require it, they must respect the principle of proportionality and not render the Schengen area meaningless.

At a time when the EU is promoting rail transport as a central pillar of its green transition, these travel disruptions are severely penalising efforts to interconnect European networks.

1. Does the Commission have an assessment of the impact of these checks on the punctuality, smooth running and attractiveness of international rail services?
2. Does it consider it proportionate to stop trains at stations when on-board, mid-journey or risk-based checks are possible?
3. How does it intend to reconcile the exercise of border control by Member States with preserving the freedom of movement that is essential for border regions?

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