

**Question for written answer E-004319/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Martin Günther (The Left), Özlem Demirel (The Left), Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE), Per Clausen (The Left), Maria Ohisalo (Verts/ALE), Damien Carême (The Left), Arash Saeidi (The Left), Andreas Schieder (S&D), Murielle Laurent (S&D), Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The worrying situation of Afghan students who are at risk of being deported from Pakistan to Afghanistan

The situation of Afghan students and graduates in Pakistan is concerning, since they face deportation, legal uncertainty and the potential threat of persecution upon return to Afghanistan. Their forced return could disrupt their education while exposing individuals, particularly women, girls, members of minorities, and those associated with civil society or international organisations, to human rights violations and restrictions of freedom. The Pakistani authorities and international community should strengthen protection mechanisms, provide access to fair asylum procedures, and facilitate educational continuity and safe pathways to protection.

1. What concrete measures is the Commission taking to protect Afghan students and graduates currently in Pakistan who face deportation to Afghanistan, particularly those who have received EU-funded scholarships, studied at European universities, or otherwise participated in EU-supported education programmes?
2. Has the Commission raised the risk of the deportation of Afghan students and graduates with the Pakistani authorities, and will it use its diplomatic and financial instruments to advocate for their protection from forced return to Afghanistan?
3. What safe and legal pathways are currently available to Afghan students, graduates, researchers, human rights defenders and women at particular risk who are in Pakistan and face a credible risk of persecution or serious human rights violations if returned to Afghanistan?

Submitted: 21.10.2026