Question for oral answer O-000039/2025
to the Commission
Rule 142
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Subject: Returns to Afghanistan: response to Member States' call for an effective migration policy

Nineteen EU Member States, in addition to Norway, are today calling on the Commission to reinstate expulsions to Afghanistan, be they voluntary or forced, including for nationals convicted of serious crimes. Since the fall of Kabul in 2021 and the Taliban takeover, the lack of a formal returns agreement has prevented any returns, creating an unsustainable situation: thousands of Afghans who have been denied asylum remain in Europe illegally – despite criminal convictions in some instances – undermining Europeans' confidence in the common migration policy.

While some states, such as Germany, have already carried out returns, the European Union urgently needs to speak with one voice, if it wants to maintain control of its external borders, internal security and the credibility of the its right to asylum.

1. Does the Commission intend to respond positively to the request by the 20 signatory countries to put Afghanistan at the top of its migration agenda?

2. Does it intend to assist the Member States in their official talks with the Afghan authorities to organise structured returns, voluntary or forced, in accordance with international law but also Europeans' legitimate right to security?

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