

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001601/24
to the Commission
Catherine Griset (Pfe)
(3 September 2024)**

Subject: Ensuring that the ‘EU talent pool’ will not open the door to illegal immigration

As part of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission has proposed establishing an EU talent pool (COM(2023)716): a platform for recruiting jobseekers from third countries for occupations facing labour shortages in the EU.

Open to low, medium and highly skilled workers, the platform could, however, deprive developing countries of their most skilled workers, which would go against the EU’s stated objectives.

What is more, it is feared that the scheme will enable a number of third-country nationals to enter Europe and remain here illegally after their jobs have come to an end, or even without having actually worked here.

In order to ensure the scheme will not open the door to illegal immigration:

1. Will the Commission check the validity and equivalence of migrant applicants’ diplomas?
2. Will the Commission provide access to the scheme on the condition that the third countries involved sign a readmission agreement?
3. Will the Commission remove access to the scheme for nationals of countries that refuse to take participants back, particularly if they entered the EU and remained illegally as a result of this platform?

Submitted: 3.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Johansson on behalf of the European Commission
(18 November 2024)**

The Commission proposal on the EU Talent Pool ⁽¹⁾ aims at facilitating international recruitment of third-country nationals residing outside the EU. The proposal does not impact the rules on migration and the existing national and EU legal frameworks continue to apply.

This means that, if the EU Talent Pool is adopted, third-country nationals recruited via the platform still have to go through the immigration procedures of the concerned Member State before entering the EU.

Jobseekers will also be required to declare that they are not subject to a refusal of entry or stay in a Member State to register their profiles. The veracity of this declaration will be checked during the immigration procedures.

Procedures for the validation of skills and recognition of qualifications of registered jobseekers, will continue to be conducted in the Member States in accordance with their law ⁽²⁾.

Online information on these processes will be available on the platform. The Commission has proposed that jobseekers having participated in a Talent Partnership will receive an ‘EU Talent Partnership pass’ certifying the skills developed or validated in that context.

The EU Talent Pool is part of the EU’s comprehensive approach to migration. Increased legal migration possibilities can help employers that struggle to find the workers they need on the domestic labour market to attract talent from abroad ⁽³⁾.

Legal pathways can also deter migrants from placing their hands in the lives of smugglers. The proposal does not make the access of third-country nationals to the EU Talent Pool conditional on the signing of a readmission agreement with their country of origin.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2023)716 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023PC0716>

⁽²⁾ Recital 19.

⁽³⁾ COM(2023)577 final