

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001673/24
to the Commission
Maciej Wąsik (ECR)
(10 September 2024)**

Subject: Ineffectiveness of readmissions in the EU

At the LIBE Committee meeting of 4 September 2024, the Commission reported a significant increase in readmissions, with 30 570 ⁽¹⁾ irregular migrants being readmitted in the first quarter of 2024. At the same time, 1 265 000 illegal residents were detected in the EU in 2023 alone ⁽²⁾, with almost 54 000 more arriving in the first half of 2024 ⁽³⁾. In real terms, therefore, those sent back represent a small percentage of those arriving illegally in the EU. One of the main reasons for the ineffectiveness of readmissions is the lack of cooperation from countries of origin and transit. The Commission, together with the European External Action Service, is responsible for negotiating EU readmission agreements and improving cooperation with third countries, which has so far been judged ineffective ⁽⁴⁾.

1. What measures will the Commission take against African and Asian countries that avoid concluding readmission agreements with the EU?
2. How does the Commission intend to support Member States in readmitting persons to countries with which the EU has agreements, but which nevertheless do not readmit their own nationals illegally residing in the EU?

Submitted: 10.9.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(24 January 2025)**

Readmission of own nationals is an established norm of customary international law that was reaffirmed in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of 2016 (resolution 71/1 of the United Nations General Assembly).

The Commission supports the conclusion of readmission agreements as they facilitate and streamline the implementation of such obligation.

However, there is no obligation as such to conclude readmission agreements. The Commission pursues comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made partnerships with key partners of origin and transit, including those with which there is no readmission agreement. Return and readmission are important elements of these partnerships.

Readmission cooperation is fostered in this framework using the relevant tools and policies, as well as available leverages, including visa measures.

The implementation of the EU readmission agreements is monitored by the Joint Readmission Committees, where any challenges of cooperation are discussed, including the reasons behind the refusal to readmit their own nationals as well as practical and operational solutions. Frontex supports Member States at all stages of the return process.

¹ Eurostat data https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title>Returns_of_irregular_migrants_-_quarterly_statistics.

² Commission data https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Enforcement_of_immigration_legislation_statistics#:~:text=1.265%20million%20non%2DEU%20citizens,up%2012.9%25%20compared%20with%202022.&text=484%20160%20non%2DEU%20citizens,of%203.8%25%20compared%20with%202022

³ Frontex data <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/what-we-do/monitoring-and-risk-analysis/migratory-map/>.

⁴ European Court of Auditors Special Report 17/2021 https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21_17/SR_Readmission-cooperation_EN.pdf