

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.1.2025)

Ensuring cooperation from third countries on readmission is a priority for the EU. To this end, relevant policies, tools and instruments of the EU and Member States should be pulled together in a strategic way, with a tailor-made approach. Under Article 25a of the Visa Code¹, the Commission has proposed visa measures towards six third countries due to insufficient cooperation on readmission. The Commission proposal for a revised General System of Preferences (GSP Regulation)² includes a withdrawal criterion related to cooperation on readmission of own nationals. Talent partnerships with third countries can enhance legal pathways while supporting broader strategic engagement on migration management.

The Commission is not able to answer the other questions raised by the Honourable Member, as the answers are part of the Report from the Commission to the Council on the assessment of third countries' level of cooperation on readmission in 2023³ adopted on 20 July 2024. This is a document classified at RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED level. In line with the protective measures for RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED information and in compliance with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information, access to such documents is limited on a need-to-know basis, assessed by its originator. Until a document is declassified, the handling rules for the level of classification remain applicable.

The Commission recalls that the above-mentioned report has been transmitted to the European Parliament on the day of its adoption and is accessible in accordance with the European Parliament's internal procedures on access to classified information.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009R0810-20200202>

² Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on applying a generalised scheme of tariff preferences and repealing Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0579&qid=1682417318608>

³ COM(2024) 340 final.