

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002115/24  
to the Commission  
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)  
(16 October 2024)**

*Subject:* Reintroduction of German border controls

In September 2024, Germany announced that it was reinstating checks at all its borders to tackle illegal immigration, a major policy issue for Olaf Scholz's socialist government and for the German people. This announcement came two weeks after the Solingen attack, for which the Islamic State claimed responsibility and which left three people dead and eight injured at a local festival. The investigation revealed that the terrorist, a Syrian who had arrived in Germany at the end of 2022, was subject to an expulsion order and should have been returned to Bulgaria, where his arrival in the EU had been registered.

Although Member States can ask the Commission for six-month exemptions in the event of a threat to internal security, as Germany has done, this decision contradicts, in theory, the rules of the Schengen area and of free movement within the European Union.

A Commission spokesperson pointed out that any border controls must be exceptional, necessary and proportionate.

1. Does the Commission think an attack that killed three people warrants exceptional measures?
2. Does the Commission see the reintroduction of border controls within the EU as a sign that the EU's external borders are completely permeable?
3. As the Commission wishes to limit internal border controls, does it intend to increase Frontex's budget in order to tighten checks at the EU's external borders?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

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

Article 25 of the Schengen Borders Code<sup>(1)</sup> allows Member States to temporarily reintroduce border control at its internal borders in case of a serious threat to public policy or internal security.

Such a decision must be necessary and proportionate and is based on an overall assessment of circumstances. Occurrences, such as the knife attack in Solingen, may form part of this overall assessment. It is for the Member States' authorities to assess the importance and gravity of specific incidents.

The effective management of the external borders is essential for the proper functioning of the Schengen area. The Schengen Borders Code obliges Member States to deploy appropriate staff and resources to ensure an efficient, high and uniform level of border control.

Member States can also count on the support of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). More than 2 000 standing corps have already been deployed at the external borders of the EU and their number will grow to 10 000 in 2027.

In August 2024, Frontex reported that unauthorised border crossings at the external borders have fallen by nearly 40% over the previous year.

Frontex's budget is substantial. Under the current multiannual financial framework (MFF), the EU contribution to Frontex's budget has increased from approximately EUR 499.6 million in 2021 to EUR 858.8 million in 2024.

It is programmed to reach EUR 1 173 million in 2027. The Commission is considering how to best strengthen the operational capabilities of Frontex, including to ensure adequate funding to increase the operational support it provides to Member States under the next MFF.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1.