

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002170/24
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE), Fabrice Leggeri (PfE)
(18 October 2024)**

Subject: Financial support to Member States to protect themselves from uncontrolled immigration, Islamist terrorism and cross-border crime

The German Government has recently reintroduced temporary controls at its internal borders to counter threats related to Islamist terrorism and cross-border crime, in particular due to uncontrolled migration flows.

However, the lack of technical and human resources makes it impossible to guarantee the effectiveness of controls. Andreas Roßkopf, Chairman of the Federal Police Union, said the following on regional radio SWR1: 'Drone surveillance, recognition of number plates, mobile control posts: we are going to need all of this to finally be able to tackle smugglers on an equal footing' ⁽¹⁾.

It is thus essential to strengthen Member States' capacities to protect their internal borders, while respecting their national sovereignty.

Does the Commission intend to make EU funds available to support Member States in acquiring surveillance equipment and equipment to carry out controls, as well as any other materials needed to effectively secure their internal borders?

Submitted: 18.10.2024

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

The Schengen area is based on the principle of absence of border controls at internal borders. Based on Article 25 of the Schengen Borders Code ⁽¹⁾, Member States have the possibility to temporarily re-introduce or prolong checks at their internal borders. However, this possibility should only be used as a last resort, for a limited period of time and in exceptional circumstances.

The instrument for financial support for Border Management and Visa Policy ⁽²⁾ (BMVI), which is part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, supports actions to facilitate legitimate external border crossings, to prevent and detect illegal immigration and cross-border crime and to effectively manage migratory flows, under its specific objective for an effective EU's external borders management.

Pursuant to Article 5(4) of the BMVI Regulation, actions related to temporary reintroduction of border controls at the internal borders are not eligible.

The Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽³⁾ provides additional solutions for managing the EU external borders and to effectively respond to illegal immigration including through the Screening Regulation ⁽⁴⁾.

¹ <https://www.swr.de/swr1/rp/programm/grenzkontrollen-interview-mit-andreas-rosskopf-gdp-bundespolizei-100.html>

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/399.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1148.

⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en#:~:text=The%20Pact%20on%20Migration%20and%20Asylum%20is%20a%20results%20while%20remaining%20grounded%20in%20our%20European%20values

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1356.