

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002235/24
to the Commission
Christine Anderson (ESN)
(23 October 2024)**

Subject: Trips home by asylum seekers in the European Union

According to media reports and official intelligence, beneficiaries of international protection are making short trips from EU Member States back to their countries of origin. Travel agencies organise these trips via third countries using double-entry visas, which means that the actual countries of destination do not appear in the travel documents. This practice is likely to be in breach of the EU's applicable asylum policy and the conditions for granting international protection, as voluntary return to the country of origin is fundamentally at odds with the need for protection.

1. What information does the Commission have about unauthorised trips home taken by people supposedly entitled to protection?
2. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take at EU level to prevent such beneficiaries of protection from taking unauthorised trips home and to ensure uniform checking practices in all Member States?
3. Does the Commission intend to introduce an EU-wide provision making it mandatory for visas to be attached to the travel documents of such beneficiaries of protection? If so, in what time frame?

Submitted: 23.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(3 April 2025)**

1. The Commission is aware that some Member States have observed movements of beneficiaries of international protection, travelling back to their country of origin and subsequently returning to the EU.
2. The Commission will continue to monitor any developments and engage closely with the Member States and other key stakeholders to provide support by promoting information-sharing and cooperation.
3. Beneficiaries of international protection in the EU possess either residence permits and/or special travel documents issued to such beneficiaries of international protection. Third-country nationals possessing such documents therefore do not need Schengen short-stay visas to cross the external borders of the EU.

Regarding visas granted by third countries to beneficiaries of international protection holding special travel documents issued by Member States, the format of the visas issued by these third countries and rules to affix to travel documents depends on each third countries legislation and practices.
