

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002901/24
to the Commission
Mary Khan (ESN)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: Commission study into the cost of illegal migration

In 2023, approximately 355 300 people entered the EU illegally ⁽¹⁾. So far in 2024, approximately 191 900 people have entered the EU illegally ⁽²⁾.

Large-scale illegal migration imposes a significant financial and social burden on the EU, especially on destination countries such as Germany. I would therefore like to enquire about the following:

1. Has the Commission conducted or authorised any comprehensive studies that assess the direct and indirect costs of illegal migration on Member States, including but not limited to healthcare, housing, education, security and social welfare expenditure?
2. In the absence of such studies, does the Commission intend to undertake any detailed research in the near future to better quantify the fiscal burden of illegal migration on EU countries?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(19 March 2025)**

As indicated by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Report quoted by the Honourable Member, in 2024 irregular border crossings into the EU have significantly decreased, with a 38% reduction compared to 2023.

In the framework of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is working to fight organised criminal groups responsible for migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings to the EU.

The implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽²⁾ and enhanced international cooperation on migration will also contribute managing irregular migration and reducing the incentive for migrants to embark in dangerous journeys.

There is no recent assessment on the fiscal impact of irregular migration on the EU. No such study is currently planned to be carried out. Available studies assessing the fiscal balance in relation to asylum seekers and refugees are specific to the context and the country and show mixed results.

¹ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20170627STO78419/countering-irregular-migration-better-eu-border-management>.

² <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/eu-external-borders-irregular-border-crossings-drop-43-in-first-10-months-of-2024-PnbwBc>.

⁽¹⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/irregular-migration-and-return/international-conference-global-alliance-counter-migrant-smuggling_en- European Commission

⁽²⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en