

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000294/25
to the Commission
Malika Sorel (PFE)
(23 January 2025)**

Subject: Request for clarification of the numbers of residency permits issued in the EU

At the 9th European Migration Forum, held at the European Economic and Social Committee on 28 and 29 November 2024, former Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, stated that in 2023 more than 3.7 million residency permits had been issued in the EU. She added that 34% of those permits had been issued for work and 14% for education, and stressed that these numbers testified to the success of her migration policy ⁽¹⁾.

1. How does the Commission justify as many residency permits as the population of a city like Berlin being issued in a single year ⁽²⁾?
2. Why were the permits making up the other 52% issued if not for work or education?
3. What information does the Commission have on the profiles of the persons who have obtained residency permits for education, what type of university education have they received in their countries of origin, and what degree level do they hope to obtain in the EU?

Submitted: 23.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(5 May 2025)**

In accordance with the Treaties, it is a prerogative of the Member States to determine the volumes of admission of third-country nationals coming from third countries to their territory in order to seek work ⁽¹⁾. The Commission cannot determine how many third-country nationals may enter and legally reside in Europe.

In 2023, Member States issued more than 3,7 million residence permits to non-EU citizens from more than 170 countries ⁽²⁾. Other than residence permits issued for work (33%) and education (14%), the rest of the permits was granted for family reasons (26%) and other reasons (26%), including international protection ⁽³⁾.

The Commission has no information about the profiles of the persons who have obtained residency permits for education in the Member States.

Member States are not required to provide information to the Commission about the profiles of international students, what type of university education they have received in their countries of origin, and what level of degree they aim to obtain in the EU.

¹ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/2024-european-migration-forum-highlights-key-role-civil-society-implementing-pact-2024-12-18_en

² 3.6 million inhabitants in 2019; <https://www.cci-paris-idf.fr/fr/prospective/crocis/comparaisons-internationales/paris-berlin-influence-politique-poids-economiques>

⁽¹⁾ See Article 79(5) Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_resfirst/bookmark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=66195d4d-e3d8-444d-956b-55e8faca4038

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Residence_permits_-_statistics_on_first_permits_issued_during_the_year