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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.7.2025)

According to available data[1], between 1 October 2024 and 28 February 2025, 11 575 Afghan women applied for international protection in the EU; the trend is stable compared to the same period last year (from 1 October 2023 to 28 February 2024, 11 190 Afghan women had applied for international protection in the EU). The Commission cannot predict the number of applications for the coming years.

According to available data[2], on 31 December 2023 (latest yearly data available), there were 62 836 residence permits delivered for family reasons on the basis of the Family Reunification Directive[3] to people with Afghan citizenship. The Commission cannot predict the number of residence permits issued for family reasons for the coming years.

Decisions regarding applications for international protection and the granting of such protection fall under the competence of Member States. Applications need to be examined individually, objectively and impartially, and the decisions taken by the competent authorities in line with the EU rules on asylum, as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union. In its judgment of 4 October 2024[4], the Court ruled that an accumulation of discriminatory measures in respect of women[5] comes within the concept of 'act of persecution', since those measures, by their cumulative effect, undermine human dignity as guaranteed by Article 1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights[6].

[1] Eurostat, Asylum applicants by type, citizenship, age and sex – monthly data, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_asyappctzm__custom_17394164/default/table?lang=en.
[2] Eurostat, All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_resvalid__custom_16729112/default/table?lang=en.
[3] Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification, OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12.
[4] Judgment of 4 October 2024, *AH and FN v Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl*, C-608/22 and C-609/22, ECLI:EU:C:2024:828.
[5] Deprivation of any legal protection against gender-based and domestic violence and forced marriage, requirement to cover the entire body and face, restriction to access to healthcare and freedom of movement, prohibition from engaging in gainful employment or limitation to the extent to which they can do so, prohibition of access to education and taking part in sports, exclusion from political life and others.
[6] *Ibid*., paragraph 46.