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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.6.2025)

The Commission does not have aggregate data concerning the costs incurred by the Member States in relation to third country nationals illegally staying in the EU.

Estimating the costs of returns depends on a variety of elements. In the case of voluntary returns, the estimated cost should include at least the flight and other transportation costs, the in-cash and in-kind assistance provided to the returnee and, where relevant, a package for the reintegration in the country of origin. In the case of forced returns, the estimated cost should include at least the cost of pre-removal accommodation, the flight (often a charter flight), the involvement of escorts when necessary, and other special arrangements before, during and after return. According to an estimate of the European Parliamentary Research Service¹, forced return costs EUR 3 414 per individual, compared with EUR 560 per voluntary return.

The 2020 study of the Commission Joint Research Centre ‘Projecting the Net Fiscal Impact of Immigration in the EU’² provides an analysis of the fiscal impact of migration in the EU in the past and the future. No other such studies are planned for the immediate future.

¹ The Cost of Non- Europe in Asylum Policy, European Parliamentary Research Service, Authors: Wouter van Ballegooij and Cecilia Navarra, European Added Value Unit, PE 627.117 – October 2018.

² <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC121937>.