

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001218/25**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**  
**Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE), Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE), Jaume Asens Llodrà**  
**(Verts/ALE), Hannah Neumann (Verts/ALE)**  
(24 March 2025)

*Subject:* EU evacuations of Afghans at risk

In February 2022, the Council (under the common foreign and security policy) adopted a decision <sup>(1)</sup> emphasising the need to continue evacuating, up to December 2022, Afghan nationals and their families who had cooperated with the EU and its Member States. This deadline has since been extended twice and was valid until December 2024 <sup>(2)</sup>. However, despite this extension, the number of Afghans admitted by Member States remains low, leaving many eligible individuals stranded in neighbouring countries or within Afghanistan itself.

Since the most recent Council decision, there have been no updates from the Vice-President/High Representative or the European External Action Service (EEAS) on its implementation or achievements.

1. When will the EEAS report on the Council decision's progress or impact on Afghans at risk?
2. In the light of the many eligible Afghans still in Afghanistan or neighbouring countries, will the EEAS propose an extension of the Council decision to the Member States?

Submitted: 24.3.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission**  
(22 May 2025)

The European External Action Service has reported on safe passage operations, whenever the question was raised during an Afghanistan related session in the European Parliament or in a parliamentary question <sup>(1)</sup>.

The Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/151 of February 2022 on a European Union action to support the evacuation of certain particularly vulnerable persons from Afghanistan <sup>(2)</sup> expired in December 2024 and was not extended.

The EU as such does not have the prerogative to deliver visas or grant asylum and in the absence of visa for the final destination country in Europe, the EU cannot continue operations. Member States still have the possibility to continue their own operations.

The Commission also supports civil society organisations and the protection of human rights in Afghanistan, through dedicated thematic budget lines.

This includes ongoing assistance to Human Right Defenders under the European Union Human Rights Defenders Mechanism <sup>(3)</sup>, which provides support worldwide, including in Afghanistan.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/151 of 3 February 2022 on a European Union action to support the evacuation of certain particularly vulnerable persons from Afghanistan, OJ L 25, 4.2.2022, p. 11, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/151/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/2803 of 11 December 2023 amending Decision (CFSP) 2022/151 on a European Union action to support the evacuation of certain particularly vulnerable persons from Afghanistan, OJ L, 2023/2803, 12.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/2803/oj>.

<sup>(1)</sup> P-002818/2022: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2022-002818\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2022-002818_EN.html).

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/151/oj/eng>.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://protectdefenders.eu/>.