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E-001249/2025
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.7.2025)

For the calculation of the return rate, the Commission relies on the European Statistical Office (Eurostat) statistics relating to third-country nationals ordered to leave the EU and third-country nationals returned following an order to leave. These statistics are collected by the Member States and reported to Eurostat in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on community statistics on migration and international protection¹. The Regulation does not specify whether the data concerns the initial or final notice of the obligation to leave; however, each person is counted only once within the reference period.

The Regulation does not require Member States to report on orders to leave the enforcement of which has been suspended on humanitarian, family-related or any other grounds.

The Commission is in continuous dialogue with Eurostat, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the Member States to improve data collection on return. Furthermore, the Commission proposal for a new common system on return² is expected to contribute to improved data collection and comparability of data.

¹ OJ L 199, 31.7.2007, p. 23–29.

² COM (2025) 101 final.