

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001464/25
to the Commission
Lukas Mandl (PPE)
(9 April 2025)**

Subject: Border management with regard to Lebanon and Syria

Due to the increased security challenges in the Middle East arising from the fall of the Assad regime, the region faces high risks of weapons proliferation, drug smuggling and illegal migration. The current figures show that the Central Mediterranean route remains the most active migratory pathway into the EU. Compared to 2023, there has been a 10% increase in irregular border crossings on this route.

1. Does the Commission intend to address the issue of human trafficking and illegal migration at its roots in the Middle East region?
2. What means and measures will the Commission take to support people in Syria to stay in order to reconstruct their country, and prevent them from illegally crossing the borders to Lebanon, in order to continue to Cyprus and elsewhere in the EU?
3. What means and measures will the Commission adopt to support effective border management mechanisms operationally implemented by trustworthy international organisations, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, in order to prevent illegal weapons smuggling and illegal border crossings, especially from Syria to Lebanon, and in order to support the Lebanese Armed Forces in fully implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(7 July 2025)**

The Commission pursues a comprehensive approach in cooperation on migration with partner countries, based on a whole-of-route approach and includes a broad-spectrum of topics, such as return and readmission, border management and prevention of irregular arrivals, legal migration, fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, international protection.

The Commission supports Lebanon in strengthening border management capacities and enhancing border governance, including with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. This is done in line with EU and international standards and through a human rights-based approach.

Support in the broader area of security aims to contribute to long-term capability of Lebanon's security forces, including the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). In 2025, a measure worth EUR 60 million was adopted through the European Peace Facility to support the LAF ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission supports the people in Syria through an inclusive, peaceful, Syrian-owned and Syrian-led transition and is committed to play a proactive role in the stabilisation, socioeconomic recovery and future reconstruction of Syria. A package of EUR 175 million for 2024-2025 will be provided for recovery inside Syria.

The EU aims to allow all Syrians, in the country and in the diaspora, to have an opportunity to reunify, stabilise and rebuild their country.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/01/21/european-peace-facility-council-adopts-the-third-assistance-measure-in-support-of-the-lebanese-armed-forces/>.