

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001617/25
to the Commission
Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE), Lena Schilling (Verts/ALE), Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)
(23 April 2025)**

Subject: Austria suspending family reunification

Austria plans to introduce a blanket suspension on family reunification for third-country nationals, in violation of Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification. In a letter of 4 March 2025 to the Commission, the Austrian Minister of the Interior says that the reunification procedures jeopardise the functioning of the Austrian state's institutions and its most important public services in particular. Austria thus plans to apply Article 72 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

1. Does the Commission consider the Austrian announcement to be in line with EU law and, if so, how?
2. If the Austrian announcement is not in conformity with EU law, how not?
3. How did the Commission respond to the letter from the Austrian Minister of the Interior and what steps will it take next?

Submitted: 23.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(29 July 2025)**

The Commission monitors the application of the Family Reunification Directive ⁽¹⁾ by all Member States, including Austria. The Commission is aware of the new legislation in Austria.

The measures provided for in the new legislation require the adoption of a governmental decree, which was adopted on 1 July 2025. The Commission is analysing the legislation including the decree.

In view of the evolving situation and pending a thorough analysis, the Commission has not yet replied to the letter from the Austrian Federal Minister for the Interior.

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification, OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12-18.