

EN

E-001869/2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.7.2025)

On 16 April 2025, the Commission proposed¹ to establish an EU list of safe countries of origin. It also proposed to frontload two elements of the Asylum Procedure Regulation 2024/1348², notably the new ground for applying accelerated and border procedures based on an EU-wide 20% recognition rate and the possibility to designate safe third countries and safe countries of origin with exceptions.

Under the proposal, applications for international protection of people coming from countries designated as safe countries of origin at EU level would be examined in an accelerated or border procedure. This examination may lead to a decision to grant international or subsidiary protection, depending on the individual circumstances of each case.

The proposal is based on a thorough analysis of the relevant criteria pertaining to the political and legal situation in each country. In the event of significant changes in that situation, the designation may be suspended and eventually removed. The proposal respects fundamental rights and observes the principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, including the right to asylum and protection against *refoulement*.

The proposal to revise the conditions for the application of the ‘safe third country’ concept³ and the possibility to establish ‘return hubs’ according to the proposal for a Return Regulation⁴ are different from the proposal referred above. The ‘safe third country’ concept implies transferring the applicant to a third country where the application for protection would be examined in substance under the law of that country. The notion of ‘return hubs’ refers to the return of persons whose application for protection has already been examined in substance and rejected in the EU.

¹ COM(2025) 186 final.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU; OJ L, 2024/1348, 22.5.2024.

³ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 as regards the application of the ‘safe third country’ concept, COM/2025/259 final, adopted on 20 May 2025.

⁴ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Union, and repealing Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, Council Directive 2001/40/EC and Council Decision 2004/191/EC, COM/2025/101 final, adopted on 11 March 2025.