

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002121/25
to the Commission
Mary Khan (ESN), Petra Steger (PfE)
(27 May 2025)**

Subject: Influence of left-wing organisations on the list of safe countries of origin

At his LIBE hearing on 12 May 2025 ⁽¹⁾, Michael Schotter, Director in the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), stated that the list of safe countries of origin at EU level is based on recommendations from the EU Asylum Agency, which in turn relies on information from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and UNHCR. The latter in particular increasingly acts as a lobby for a largely barrier-free immigration policy. This casts a doubt over the credibility of the 'restrictive' asylum policy announced by Commissioner Brunner. If the advice on policy-making is coming from organisations that are clearly pushing for mass migration, any promises of tightening will prove to be empty. If anything, it seems that Brussels is deliberately trying to replace national lists of safe countries of origin with centralised EU lists in order to ultimately undermine countries' sustainable restrictive asylum policies.

1. How will the Commission effectively strengthen asylum rules if it continues to seek advice from organisations like the UNHCR, which clearly pursue a mass migration agenda?
2. What other external actors and NGOs currently have a direct or indirect influence on the process of establishing the list of safe countries of origin?
3. Will the Commission take measures to ensure balanced ideological representation among the organisations involved in the process of assessing safe countries of origin in future?

Submitted: 27.5.2025

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

On 16 April 2025, the Commission proposed ⁽¹⁾ a first EU list of safe countries of origin. The proposal will support a more uniform application of the concept of safe countries of origin, while helping Member States to process asylum applications faster and more efficiently for applicants whose claims are likely to be unfounded.

Under Article 61(3) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 ⁽²⁾, the assessment of whether a third country is a safe country of origin must be based on a range of relevant and available sources of information, including information from Member States, the EU Asylum Agency, the European External Action Service, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and other relevant international organisations, and must take into account where available the common analysis of the country of origin information referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 ⁽³⁾.

In accordance with these rules, the Commission consulted the entities mentioned above when preparing its proposal.

¹ https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/libe-committee-meeting_20250512-1500-COMMITTEE-LIBE

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 as regards the establishment of a list of safe countries of origin at Union level; 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⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010, OJ L 468, 30.12.2021, p. 1-54.