

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002237/25
to the Commission
Christine Anderson (ESN)
(4 June 2025)

Subject: Commission and Frontex position on deterrence and physical countermeasures against the weaponisation of migration

In a hearing of the Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield of 2 June 2025, a Frontex representative acknowledged that certain state actors, such as Russia and Belarus, have engaged in the use of migration as a tool for hybrid aggression. However, they avoided clarifying Frontex's operational position when the Member States respond to such tactics with deterrence measures at the border. Furthermore, they declined to address the broader context of similar tactics being employed by state actors beyond Russia and Belarus, such as Türkiye or certain North African countries.

In the light of this:

1. What is the Commission's position on the legality, under EU law, of rejecting 'weaponised' migrants at the border as a targeted deterrence measure in response to these hybrid threats?
2. Does the Commission recognise similar patterns of the deliberate use of migration by state actors beyond Russia and Belarus, including but not limited to Türkiye, Middle Eastern, and certain North African countries and if not, why not?
3. Is Frontex instructed or permitted to be involved in supporting the Member States in the construction or reinforcement of physical border barriers as a means of border management, where such 'concrete countermeasures' serve to combat weaponised migration?

Submitted: 4.6.2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(6 August 2025)

Member States bear the responsibility for maintaining law and order and safeguarding national security. As recalled in the Commission Communication adopted in December 2024 ⁽¹⁾, if Member States facing weaponisation of migration by Russia, assisted by Belarus, decide to take exceptional measures to counter this threat, the measures taken must be temporary, proportionate and limited to what is strictly necessary.

While such measures may affect certain fundamental rights, for example the right to asylum, they must respect non-derogable rights and principles.

The construction or reinforcement of physical border barriers fall outside of the mandate of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

Frontex officers are deployed to support Member States to help ensure the safety of the operations and the effective management of the external borders of the EU.

Frontex operational activities in a given Member State are agreed upon between the Agency, based on its mandate, and the host Member State.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on countering hybrid threats from the weaponisation of migration and strengthening security at the EU's external borders, COM/2024/570 final.