

EN
E-002756/2025
Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.9.2025)

The Commission's assessment of the safety of the countries proposed for designation as safe countries of origin at EU level¹, including Colombia, is based on a range of sources of information, including information prepared by the European Union Agency for Asylum, and on a range of other relevant sources including from Member States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Commission's proposal includes countries where there is, in general, no risk of persecution or serious harm. The fact that a third country is included in the proposed list of safe countries of origin does not establish an absolute guarantee of safety for all nationals of that country. Member States may apply the safe country of origin concept only where the applicant cannot provide elements justifying why this concept is not applicable to him or her, in the framework of an individual assessment, and provided that the applicant has the nationality of that country or is a stateless person and was formerly habitually resident in that country.

The Commission acknowledges in the proposal, notably in its explanatory memorandum, that certain groups of individuals face specific challenges in the third countries concerned. The situation of human rights defenders in Colombia is specifically mentioned. Member States need to pay special attention to applicants who are in a specific situation in those countries when assessing their applications².

¹ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and 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. (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0186>).

² See also recital 17 of the proposal.