

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002835/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(11 July 2025)**

Subject: Risks arising from irregular migration from Libya

Hundreds of irregular immigrants entering Greece, in particular Crete, by boat from Libya are being transferred to mainland Greece — to the Fylakio reception centre in the border region of Evros — for identification and temporary accommodation. They are held there for 24 days before being released with a temporary residence permit. This allows them to move freely within the country, without any checks, resulting in increased delinquency, fear and insecurity, and wide-ranging effects on the economy and social cohesion.

The Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy (June 2016) lists territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders as key elements of European security, and states that ensuring the security of EU citizens/territories is a common interest. Nonetheless, to date the EU has not taken serious steps to safeguard the inviolability of Greek borders and thus secure those of the EU.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What does the EU intend to do in the context of solidarity between the Member States in order to assist Greece, which — owing to its geographical location and proximity to Türkiye and North Africa — is the most exposed country in Europe in terms of illegal immigration?
2. Does it intend to put pressure on the countries of origin of migrants to take them back (*refoulement*), with clear sanctions if they fail to comply and without merely paying lip service?

Submitted: 11.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(15 September 2025)**

The Commission and the EU Agencies ⁽¹⁾ are providing significant financial, operational and technical support to help Greece manage migration. The EU financial support through Home Affairs Funds ⁽²⁾ made available since 2015 for migration and border management is just over EUR 5 billion.

The Agencies have been supporting Greece with deployments of technical equipment and staff, in line with their mandates. The reform introduced by the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽³⁾ puts in place a fair and effective system of solidarity and responsibility to manage migration, where no Member State is left alone under pressure.

It introduces a permanent, mandatory, and needs-based solidarity mechanism, replacing ad-hoc voluntary solutions ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission is working with the Member States to implement all elements of the Pact, including the solidarity mechanism ⁽⁵⁾.

Since 2020, the Commission carries out on a yearly assessment of third countries' level of cooperation on readmission, in accordance with Article 25(a) of the Visa Code ⁽⁶⁾.

When the Commission considers that a third country is not cooperating sufficiently, it may propose to the Council the adoption of temporary restrictions related to short stay visa processing ⁽⁷⁾.

The Commission will continue to pursue a comprehensive approach to managing migration in accordance with our values, European law and international obligations.

This includes developing mutually beneficial comprehensive partnerships, which support the EU's objectives on readmission and returns.

⁽¹⁾ European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), European Office for Police Cooperation (Europol).

⁽²⁾ This refers to financial support under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and Internal Security Fund for the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework as well as support under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Border Management and Visa Instrument and the Internal Security Fund for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, COM(2020)/609 final.

⁽⁴⁾ As set out in Part IV of Regulation (EU) 2024/1351.

⁽⁵⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions State of play on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, COM(2025) 319 final.

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code); OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ To date, the Commission proposed visa measures under Article 25(a) of the Visa Code in relation to Bangladesh, Iraq, The Gambia, Senegal, Ethiopia, Somalia and Guinea. Visa measures were adopted by the Council in relation to The Gambia and Ethiopia.

The comprehensive partnerships are complemented by the ‘whole-of-the-route’ approach covering all aspects, from dealing with the root causes of irregular migration to cooperation on other aspects of migration and border management.
