

EN

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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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Managing EU external borders is a key priority, involving shared responsibility between Member States and the EU. The Commission supports this effort through policy, funding, and operational aid. Key measures include multiannual strategic policies, support by Frontex, large scale information technology (IT) systems for border management, and EU funding of EUR 7.92 billion for Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) for the 2021-2027 programming period¹. Cooperation with third countries addresses illegal immigration, smuggling, and security risks. External borders management is also addressed in the Pact on Migration and Asylum² through the Screening Regulation and contingency planning. The Commission proposal for legislation to improve the effectiveness of returning third-country nationals with no right to stay in the EU is under negotiation.

In its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034³, the Commission proposed establishing National and Regional Partnership Plans to increase flexibility for tackling demographic challenges, enabling tailored, long-term responses. Cohesion policy is crucial, particularly in less developed regions affected by emigration or underemployment through investment in attractiveness, productivity, innovation, and reform backed by the European Semester. Efforts also aim to support vulnerable regions at risk of a ‘talent development trap’⁴ with the ‘Talent Booster Mechanism’⁵.

By 2026, an EU-wide strategy for islands and coastal communities is expected. Cohesion policy aids Greek regions, including Eastern Macedonia, Thrace, and Aegean islands, with EUR 639 million and EUR 679.3 million allocated for 2021–2027 to boost local economies, social infrastructure, and sustainable development, supplemented by sectoral program funding.

¹ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/borders-and-visa-funds/integrated-border-management-fund-border-management-and-visa-instrument-2021-27_en.

² https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁴ Regions in or at risk of falling a ‘talent development trap’ are defined in Commission’s communication ‘Harnessing talent in Europe’s regions’ COM(2023) 32 final of 17 January 2023.

⁵ Further information on the ‘Talent Booster Mechanism’ is available at: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/harnessing-talent-platform_en.