

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003656/25
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(22 September 2025)**

Subject: Exploitation of migrants by smugglers and the threat to European security

The continuous flow of irregular migrants to the EU is now accompanied by organised smuggling rings, often involving state or semi-state actors from non-EU countries. Border management has become an instrument of blackmail against the Union. At the same time, there are increasing indications that people are being instrumentalised by authoritarian regimes for destabilisation purposes.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to strengthen external border control, in cooperation with Frontex and frontline Member States?
2. What measures are being considered against state and non-state actors who exploit or instrumentalise migration to the detriment of European security and cohesion?

Submitted: 22.9.2025

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

Strengthening external border control is one of the priorities of the Commission. In the Political Guidelines 2024-2029 ⁽¹⁾, the President of the Commission announced plans to strengthen Frontex to ensure it can protect the external borders under all circumstances, emphasising that there should be zero tolerance for the rise of hybrid and other security threats.

The Commission intends to present a proposal to amend the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation ⁽²⁾, which outlines the mandate and operational rules of Frontex, in the third quarter of 2026.

The proposal will be accompanied by an impact assessment. Currently, the Commission is conducting consultations ⁽³⁾ on this important initiative.

The state of play related to this proposal has been presented twice ⁽⁴⁾ in the European Parliament's Schengen and Borders Scrutiny Working Group.

The communication of the Commission on countering hybrid threats from the weaponisation of migration and strengthening security at the EU's external borders provides an overview of the main available measures against this kind of hybrid threats and previous action taken at EU level ⁽⁵⁾.

In addition, as part of the Pact on Migration and Asylum adopted in May 2024, the regulation addressing situations of crisis and *force majeure* ⁽⁶⁾ which will apply from 1 July 2026 provides a framework for responding to situations of instrumentalisation.

The revised Schengen Borders Code ⁽⁷⁾ also explicitly recognises that instrumentalisation may justify the temporary closure or limitation of opening hours at specified border crossing points, when circumstances require.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14640-European-Border-and-Coast-Guard-update-of-EU-rules/public-consultation_en.

⁽⁴⁾ 24 April and 16 October 2025.

⁽⁵⁾ 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.

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1359.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1717.