

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004165/25
to the Commission
Marieke Ehlers (P/E)
(22 October 2025)**

Subject: Coherence of the ‘Pact for the Mediterranean’ with Member State experiences in migration policy

The Commission’s ‘Pact for the Mediterranean’ promotes deeper cooperation and increased mobility with southern Mediterranean countries. However, some Member States, such as Denmark and the Netherlands, have reached different conclusions based on their own experiences. Denmark has introduced restrictive migration policies due to concerns over fiscal costs and integration challenges. Similarly, research, such as the Dutch report entitled ‘Borderless Welfare State’ ⁽¹⁾, highlights the significant fiscal burden that migration from these regions can place on welfare systems.

1. Did the Commission take into account the specific experiences and detailed socioeconomic assessments from Member States such as Denmark and the Netherlands when developing the pact, given their more restrictive policies?
2. How does the Commission reconcile the pact’s goal of promoting mobility as a source of growth and opportunity with findings such as those in ‘Borderless Welfare State’, which identify migration from these regions as a fiscal and social challenge?
3. What safeguards or conditions are included in the pact to ensure that its mobility and migration objectives do not lead to the negative fiscal and societal outcomes reported by Member States?

Submitted: 22.10.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(7 January 2026)**

The Pact for the Mediterranean ⁽¹⁾ (the Pact) builds on the collective input gathered through extensive consultations to ensure genuine ownership and mutual benefit for Member States and southern Mediterranean partners.

The Commission has carefully taken into account the contributions from Member States in the drafting of the Pact. In that framework, Member States have largely emphasised the need for the Pact to focus on comprehensive migration management by addressing the root causes of migration and strengthening the migration governance capacities of partner countries, while making full use of existing EU instruments and policies.

In line with the external dimension of the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽²⁾, the Commission aims, under the third pillar of the Pact for the Mediterranean, to continue supporting a comprehensive approach to migration including through the prevention of irregular departures, the fight against smuggling and trafficking, and work on effective readmission of those with no right to stay.

All this work paves the way for more legal pathways to address labour needs which are challenging EU competitiveness, notably through the first pillar.

This two-fold approach ensures that mobility serves as a driver for growth, while preventing irregular migration and pursuing an effective return and readmission policy, among other aims.

The Pact will be based on the principle of flexibility, which will allow for variable participation of Member States and partners in the implementation of the various initiatives, while taking into consideration their specificities. Furthermore, Member States will be involved in monitoring the implementation of initiatives.

¹ Van de Beek J. H. et al., ‘Borderless Welfare State — The Consequences of Immigration for Public Finances’, University of Amsterdam, 2023.

⁽¹⁾ https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/joint-communication-pact-mediterranean_en.

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