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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Pact on Migration and Asylum[1] overhauls the migration and asylum system, providing for more control over illegal migration, simplifying rules and procedures on asylum, strengthening resilience and preparedness, and introducing instruments for managing crises. In January 2026, the Commission presented the European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy[2] outlining concrete priorities for the next five years, including preventing illegal migration.

The Commission is staying vigilant regarding terrorism and violent extremism and will present the new ProtectEU: Agenda to prevent and counter terrorism on 26 February 2026. This Agenda will detail key actions for the EU institutions, Member States, EU agencies and private sector to better anticipate threats, prevent radicalisation, protect people both online and offline, respond effectively to attacks, and strengthen international cooperation.

The Commission is working closely with Member States to protect the external borders. All persons entering and exiting the Schengen area undergo systematic checks in the Schengen Information System. The Entry/Exit System, the future European Travel Authorisation System and the revised Visa Information System will allow for the cross-checking of travellers against EU databases and the pre-assessing of security risks posed by third-country nationals. Under the Schengen Borders Code[3], Member States must ensure an efficient, high and uniform level of controls at external borders and carry out systematic checks. From June 2026, the new Screening Regulation[4] will require Member States to carry out in-depth security checks on all persons crossing external borders outside border crossing points.

[1] https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.
[2] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/european-asylum-and-migration-management-strategy_en.
[3] Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) (OJ L 077 23.3.2016, Article 15 http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/399/2025-10-12).
[4] Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 introducing the screening of third-country nationals at the external borders and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/817 (OJ L, 2024/1356, 22.5.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1356/oj).