

EN

E-005047/2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.3.2026)

As stated in its Asylum and Migration Management Strategy of 29 January 2026¹, the Commission considers that the EU approach to asylum and migration should pursue complementary objectives at the same time: prevent illegal migration and break the business of criminal smuggling networks, protect people fleeing war and persecution, and encourage talent mobility to boost the EU competitiveness.

Maintaining legal pathways, including for people in need of protection, contribute to an orderly, secure and controlled migration management system, preventing dangerous journeys and the involvement of criminal smuggling networks². Encouraging labour and talent mobility contributes to addressing the needs of the EU labour market, and fostering innovation and competitiveness in the EU.

The Commission is continuously working to increase the effectiveness of returns and enhance cooperation with third countries on readmission. In March 2025, the Commission put forward the proposal for a return Regulation³, which aims at establishing a common EU return system, currently under negotiation.

New tools have been developed to further promote readmission cooperation by third countries, in line with European Council conclusions of 2025⁴, such as the mechanism of Article 25a of the Visa Code, the Visa Suspension Mechanism, as well as the recently agreed revision of the Generalised Scheme of Preference Regulation⁵. The Commission also proposed to extend this approach to external financing in the Global Europe Regulation proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034⁶.

¹ COM(2026) 45 final.

² Joint Research Center, The Atlas of Migration 2025 detailing numbers of irregular and regular arrivals in 2024.

³ Directive 2008/115/EC.

⁴ European Council conclusions (18 December 2025, 23 October 2025, 26 June 2025).

⁵ Regulation (EU) 978/2012.

⁶ COM(2025) 571.