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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) has concluded status agreements with a number of EU candidate countries. In this context, in 2023, Commission services held an information session for various Ukrainian authorities on the nature and purpose of status agreements, outlining the procedural requirements under Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Negotiations are only possible with Council authorisation.

A status agreement would provide a legal framework for Frontex to directly support Ukraine's border management authorities, including with tasks requiring executive powers, once the security situation permits. This would enhance the current cooperation, under the working arrangement between Frontex and the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service. As an EU candidate country, Ukraine will need to bring its border-management framework in line with the EU *acquis*. As a neighbouring country sharing some 1 300 km of land border with the EU, it is in the EU's interest that those borders are managed to the highest possible standard.

Discussions are ongoing with Member States on how the EU can best support Ukraine in the management of its borders, in particular those it shares with the EU.