

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000213/26
to the Commission
Raquel García Hermida-Van Der Walle (Renew)
(20 January 2026)**

Subject: The Commission's assessment of border controls imposed by the Netherlands following its statements on those in Germany

On 8 January 2026, Commissioner Brunner stated that he is pressing Germany to start rolling back its internal border controls, warning they cannot become a semi-permanent feature of Schengen. Germany reintroduced internal border checks in September 2024 arguing that this was necessary to curb irregular migration. Commissioner Brunner says the measures must remain temporary and urges Berlin to rely instead on the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum and increased voluntary returns ⁽¹⁾.

1. Does the Commission intend to apply the same level of scrutiny and enforcement of Schengen rules to all Member States maintaining internal border controls, including the Netherlands?
2. Has the Commission also assessed the prolonged internal border controls imposed by the Dutch Government ⁽²⁾ and if so, what is the outcome of this assessment, and if not, why not, and by when does the Commission intend to finalise its assessment?
3. Will the Commission make the conclusions of the above-mentioned assessment public?

Submitted: 20.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(9 March 2026)**

Member States can introduce border controls at their internal borders under certain conditions as set out in EU legislation. The Commission is working closely with all the Member States that currently have internal border controls in place, as well as with the Member States affected by the controls.

The criteria applied by the Commission when assessing notifications of temporary reintroduction or prolongations of border controls at internal borders are those provided for by the Schengen Borders Code ⁽¹⁾ as amended ⁽²⁾, which applies uniformly in the Member States concerned.

The Commission services are in the process of assessing the notifications of all reintroductions and their prolongations which have been notified to the Commission. In the framework of this assessment, the Commission services take into account the reports submitted by those Member States pursuant to Article 33(2) of the Schengen Borders Code.

According to the provisions of the Schengen Borders Code, the conclusion of these assessments should take the form of Commission opinions. The Commission will act in line with its obligations under the Schengen Borders Code. These opinions will be issued to the Member States concerned.

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/newsletter/brussels-playbook/europe-stirs-as-greenland-heats-up/>.

² The Commission indicated that it is assessing the arguments put forward by the Member States during a consultation process held between April and July 2025. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-003882-ASW_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ 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 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1717 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders. OJ L 2024/1717, 20.6.2024.