

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000333/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(28 January 2026)**

Subject: New EU sanctions regime against migrant smuggling and human trafficking

The European External Action Service (EEAS) has initiated discussions on a new EU sanctions regime backed by several Member States to tackle migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Issues remain regarding the target of these sanctions (state actors or legal entities), the procedure for examining proposals for additions to the list and formal submission via the Commission to combat organised crime.

1. How is the Commission involved in the consultations and discussions conducted by the EEAS, and what documentation has it drawn up for this purpose?
2. What is the Commission's position on the question of whether the planned sanctions should be primarily targeted at state actors, legal entities or natural persons, and what verification mechanisms does it consider appropriate?
3. When exactly does the Commission plan to submit a formal legislative proposal for the sanctions regime and to what extent could it be modelled on existing sanctions regimes?

Submitted: 28.1.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 March 2026)**

The European External Action Service and the Commission are currently discussing with the Council a new sanctions regime addressing migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings, and, if suitable, other forms of organised crime. The exact scope of the new regime proposed will depend on such discussions.

The regime should target natural persons and entities, including relevant organised crime groups, whose actions pose a security threat to the EU, within the scope of the new regime.

Once the sanctions regime is established, it will allow the High Representative/ Vice-President or Member States to table specific listing proposals that will have to be assessed by the Council based on political feasibility, taking into account their legal solidity.

Where possible and appropriate, the proposal for the new sanctions' regime will draw on elements from other horizontal and recent sanctions regimes. The proposal for a new regime is expected to be finalised in the first quarter of 2026.
