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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.4.2026)

In 2025, there were around 11 000 illegal border crossings (IBCs) at the EU's eastern border¹, according to consolidated Frontex data (–36% compared to 2024). At the EU's external border with Belarus, the authorities of Poland, Latvia and Lithuania reported that, in 2025, there was again a high number of attempts to illegally cross the border. This demonstrates that the weaponisation of migration continues at the EU's external borders with Belarus.

The difference between the data reported by Frontex and by the Member States is that Frontex uses a single definition of attempted IBCs applicable across the EU, while individual Member States collect data based on their own national definition of attempted IBCs. There is currently no commonly agreed EU-wide definition for attempts to cross the border illegally. However, as part of the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, Frontex is working together with the Commission and Member States to establish an EU-wide common data collection on verifiable attempts to cross the border illegally.

The Commission therefore does not consider the Frontex data misleading.

¹ At the EU external borders with Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova.