

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.5.2026)

The Busmantsi centre operates as a pre-return detention facility. The Return Directive¹ enables Member States to detain for removal purposes illegally staying third-country nationals if there is a risk of absconding or the third-country national avoids or hampers the preparation of return or the removal process. When imposing detention, Member States have to ensure compliance with the respective safeguards and the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights.

The centre in question also includes a separate closed unit (places) which operates as a centre for applicants for international protection. The detention of applicants for international protection is regulated by Directive 2013/33/EU². The Commission monitors the correct transposition and implementation of applicable EU law, including the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights.

Detention conditions in Bulgaria were evaluated as part of the Schengen evaluation mission³ which took place in November 2025. The outcome of the evaluation will be reflected in the report to be adopted by the Commission in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 and the remedial measures subsequently put in place by Bulgaria to address the recommendations will be monitored.

¹ Article 15 of <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/115/oj?uri=CELEX:32008L0115>.

² In particular Articles 8 to 11 of Directive (EU) 2013/33: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/33/oj/eng>.

³ The correct implementation of the return acquis is monitored through the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism in line with Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/922/oj/eng>.