

EN

E-001367/2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.6.2026)

The Commission is closely monitoring *modi operandi* of migrant smuggling networks and is aware of the growing trend of smugglers using high-speed boats to evade detection and apprehension by law enforcement. It recognises the operational challenges this poses for Member States. To address this issue, the Commission is taking decisive action, including through the establishment of Europol's¹ European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling²³ and by funding the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats Policy Cycle⁴.

With the upcoming revision of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896⁵, the Commission intends to ensure that the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) remains well-equipped to support Member States in the safe and effective management of the external borders of the EU. Operationally, this includes enhancing the ability and flexibility of the European Border and Coast Guard community to deploy resources where and when needed, and maximising Frontex's ability to cooperate with relevant EU agencies. Search and rescue obligations will remain anchored in international law.

The Commission supports strengthening border surveillance capacities, including through funding under the Border Management and Visa Instrument⁶, by making technical equipment available to Frontex. The deployment of drones and surveillance systems is decided by Frontex in response to operational needs, in full compliance with applicable EU law. This will include, once applicable, the AI Act obligations for high-risk AI systems used in migration and border management, notably the fundamental rights safeguards and the deployer's fundamental rights impact assessment before putting the system into service.

¹ European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.

² <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/grip-migrant-smuggling-tightens-new-department-europol-to-step-fight>.

³ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/spain-24-arrested-in-crackdown-speedboat-migrant-smuggling-network>.

⁴ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/law-enforcement-cooperation/empact-fighting-crime-together_en.

⁵ REGULATION (EU) 2019/1896 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624.

⁶ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/borders-and-visa-funds/integrated-border-management-fund-border-management-and-visa-instrument-2021-27_en.