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E-001424/2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.6.2026)

Migrant deaths at sea are a tragic reminder of the need for a comprehensive approach to migration management and renewed efforts to combat migrant smuggling in the EU and with countries along migratory routes. Every life lost at sea is a tragedy.

The Commission is committed to preventing dangerous journeys by tackling the root causes of irregular migration and strengthening measures against organised crime along migratory routes. The Commission also promotes safe and legal pathways to the EU, notably through Talent Partnerships, the EU's new Talent Pool¹ and the Union resettlement and Humanitarian admission Plan 2026-2027².

As regards search and rescue³, the Commission keeps promoting reinforced information sharing, coordination and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, including partner countries. Upon requests by Member States, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) provides technical and operational support to facilitate the safe and effective management of the external borders of the EU. The Agency is to act in full compliance with its EU and international law obligations in all its activities and engagements. In 2025 alone, 24 877 people were rescued at sea with Frontex support⁴.

The Commission will continue to promote these efforts together with all relevant stakeholders, including partner countries.

¹ The EU Talent Pool Regulation was adopted on 30 March 2026. The Commission is working on the development of the IT platform to make it operational by 2027. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-resettlement/work/eu-talent-pool_en.

² https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/commissions-proposal-union-resettlement-and-humanitarian-admission-plan_en.

³ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management/search-and-rescue_en.

⁴ Although, Search and rescue (SAR) is a responsibility of national authorities, Frontex, through the provision of services such as aerial surveillance, can support SAR operations and help saving lives at sea, by enabling the Member States to identify situations of potential distress earlier and respond more quickly and effectively.