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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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In the explanatory memorandum of its proposal for a Return Regulation¹, the Commission noted the low share of third-country nationals that actually leave the EU compared to those ordered to leave and identified a number of shortcomings that are addressed in the proposed regulation to improve the effectiveness of the return system. The application of EU rules on return by Member States is assessed under the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism², and, where shortcomings are identified, specific recommendations are set out in country reports.

The future Return Regulation will allow Member States to establish return hubs, subject to specific conditions and safeguards. It is for Member States to assess the potential financial costs of the specific initiative they take.

The Commission will regularly monitor the application of the Return Regulation, including through the Schengen evaluation mechanism. The Commission will report on the implementation of the new Regulation in five years after its entry into force pursuant to Article 48 of the future Return Regulation.

¹ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Union, and repealing Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, Council Directive 2001/40/EC and Council Decision 2004/191/EC.

² https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/schengen-area/schengen-governance/schengen-evaluation-and-monitoring_en.