

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002487/26
to the Commission
Pascal Arimont (PPE)
(17 June 2026)

Subject: Compatibility of Germany's internal border controls with the Schengen Borders Code

In September 2024, I put a question to the Commission on the controls that Germany had reinstated at internal borders (E-001719/2024). In its answer, the Commission said that it was assessing the necessity and proportionality of the measures on the basis of the information it had received from Germany.

On 2 June 2026, the Commission issued an opinion on Germany's maintenance of internal border controls ⁽¹⁾. It stresses that internal border controls are only permitted as a last resort, points to available alternatives and calls on Germany to work towards phasing out the controls.

1. What specific conclusions did the Commission reach on the necessity and proportionality of the internal border controls that Germany has kept in place?
2. What specific action does it expect Germany to take as it phases out the controls as requested, and within what time frame?
3. What steps will it take if Germany clings onto its controls and refuses to comply with the request in the opinion of 2 June 2026 to phase them out?

Submitted: 17.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2026)

In its Opinion issued on 2 June 2026 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission acknowledges the serious threats invoked by Germany due to the complex security and migration situation it is confronted with.

The Commission stresses that internal border controls must remain a temporary measure of last resort as required by the Schengen Borders Code ⁽²⁾.

The Commission has recommended that Germany work towards the gradual lifting of internal border controls, based on a tailor-made approach per part of the internal border and per threat, making full use of the available alternative measures as laid out in Commission adopted Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 ⁽³⁾ on cooperation between the Member States with regard to serious threats to internal security and public policy in the area without internal border controls, and the possibilities under the revised Schengen Borders Code.

The Commission, with the support of its Schengen Coordinator, has now initiated a new round of consultations with all Member States concerned by the reintroduction of internal border control.

It is also in close contact with the German authorities to ensure that an appropriate follow-up is given to the recommendations made in the Commission's Opinion.

It notes that important progress has already been made, for instance at the German-Luxembourg border, where static controls have been replaced by mobile checks.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1223.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Opinion of 2.6.2026 on the necessity and proportionality of the reintroduction of border control by Germany at its land borders in accordance with Article 27a(3) of Regulation (EU) No 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code), C(2026) 3557 final, available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/commission-opinions-temporary-internal-border-controls-schengen-area_en.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), OJ L 77, p.1-52, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1717, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/399/2025-10-12>.

⁽³⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 of 23 November 2023 on cooperation between the Member States with regard to serious threats to internal security and public policy in the area without internal border controls <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/268/oj/eng>.