

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003178/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(30 July 2026)

Subject: Deportations to Afghanistan and the Taliban's designation as a terrorist organisation

Germany and other Member States have resumed deportations to Afghanistan. However, the ruling Taliban had been classified as a 'terrorist organisation' at least until they seized power in 2021. Frontex is also assisting with deportations to Afghanistan across the EU, which in practice requires cooperation with the Taliban. It is therefore of interest to learn how the Commission classifies the Taliban from a legal perspective.

1. Does the Commission classify the Taliban as a terrorist organisation, and if not, since when, and for what legal reasons has this classification been changed?
2. In the Commission's view, do acts committed by Taliban members before 2021 continue to be regarded as terrorism, and are corresponding investigations or sanctions being continued at EU level?
3. What deportations or returns to Afghanistan — broken down by Member State and year — has Frontex carried out or assisted with since 2021, for example by means of collective charters, personnel or logistics?

Submitted: 30.7.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(6 October 2026)

The requirement for a listing under Council Decision (CFSP) 2026/455 on restrictive measures to combat terrorism (CD455) ⁽¹⁾, for the involvement of a group in terrorist acts, is a competent authority decision.

In accordance with Article 2(2) of CD455, that decision should concern the investigation or prosecution for the involvement of the group in a terrorist act, or condemnation for such an act, as defined by Article 1(1) of CD455.

If that requirement is met, the Council may list the group, acting by unanimity. The list of those subject to restrictive measures under CD455 has last been reviewed on 30 July 2026 ⁽²⁾.

Restrictive measures concerning Afghanistan and the Taliban are governed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1988(2011) ⁽³⁾. That resolution and all related listings are transposed at EU level through Council Decision 2011/486/CFSP ⁽⁴⁾ and Council Regulation (EU) No 753/2011 ⁽⁵⁾.

In addition, the EU has used its autonomous Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime to respond to serious violations against women and girls in Afghanistan through two sanctions packages targeting the Ministers for Higher Education and for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice ⁽⁶⁾ as well as three senior Taliban officials for their role in depriving Afghan women and girls of access to education, justice, and equal treatment ⁽⁷⁾.

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) has resumed its support to voluntary returns to Afghanistan as of 24 November 2025.

Until 27 August 2026, Frontex assisted the Member States in the voluntary return of 112 Afghan citizens and provided post arrival and/or post return support through the EU Reintegration Programme to 120 Afghan citizens returned by the Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L, 2026/455, 26 February 2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2026/455/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2026/1882 of 30 July 2026 reviewing the list of persons, groups and entities covered by Decision (CFSP) 2026/455 on restrictive measures to combat terrorism (OJ L, 2026/1882, 30 July 2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2026/1882/oj>).

⁽³⁾ [https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1988%20\(2011\)](https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1988%20(2011)).

⁽⁴⁾ Council Decision 2011/486/CFSP of 1 August 2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (OJ L 199, 2 August 2011, p. 57, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2011/486/oj>).

⁽⁵⁾ Council Regulation (EU) No 753/2011 of 1 August 2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (OJ L 199, 2 August 2011, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/753/oj>).

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/03/07/violence-against-women-and-girls-eu-sanctions-nine-individuals-and-three-entities-under-its-global-human-rights-sanctions-regime/>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/07/20/human-rights-violations-eu-lists-18-individuals-and-five-entities-responsible-for-gender-based-violence-and-linked-to-the-navalny-and-kara-murza-cases/>.