EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.10.2026)

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to the reply to written question P-002653/26[1].

Following a letter signed by 20 Member States and Schengen Associated countries dated 16 October 2025, the Commission and Sweden, on behalf of the Member States, co-chaired a technical-level meeting in Brussels with representatives of the *de facto* authorities of Afghanistan responsible for return and readmission, in particular with regards to the identification of returnees, the issuance of travel documents and their return.

The technical meeting was dedicated strictly on return and readmission focusing on criminals and persons who pose a threat to public order and national security. Principled operational technical-level engagement with the *de facto* authorities of Afghanistan is in line with the Council conclusions of September 2021[2] and March 2023[3].

[1] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2026-002653-ASW_EN.html.
[2] https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11713-2021-REV-2/en/pdf.
[3] https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7264-2023-INIT/en/pdf.