

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.7.2025)

EU rules governing family reunification comply with the obligation to protect the family and to respect family life, as enshrined in many instruments of international law. Directive 2003/86/EC¹ respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular in Article 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

The Commission is not in the position to speculate on potential actions of third country nationals in national procedures. The EU itself is not party to the European Convention on Human Rights. As such, applications for family reunification based solely on Article 8 of the Convention do not fall within the scope of EU law.

The Commission is working with the Member States and the European Parliament to implement the Pact on Migration and Asylum². The Pact integrates key EU policies on migration, asylum and border management. It will ensure that the EU has strong and secure external borders, fast and efficient procedures, and an effective system of solidarity and responsibility. This will sustainably reduce migration pressure to and within the EU.

¹ Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification, OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/86/oj>.

² more information available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.