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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.7.2025)

Under the Schengen Borders Code¹ the organisation of controls at the external borders falls within the responsibility of the Member State concerned. In accordance with Article 15 of the Schengen Borders Code, Member States are obliged to deploy appropriate staff and resources in sufficient numbers, in such a way as to ensure an efficient, high and uniform level of control at the external borders.

Unfortunately, in practice, especially during the holiday season, long waiting times can sometimes occur, despite using to the full the personal, geographical and organisational possibilities.

As regards specifically minor children, the Commission recommends in the Practical Handbook for Border Guards² that such children should be treated in accordance with the principle of the 'best interest of the child', be prioritised during border controls, and a child-friendly treatment and atmosphere should always be ensured.

¹ 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, 23.3.2016, p. 1.

² https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-11/Practical%20handbook%20for%20border%20guards_en.pdf, point 5.6.1.