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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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In accordance with EU law, the examination of applications for international protection is the responsibility of the Member States. The examination needs to be undertaken individually, objectively and impartially and respect the rules laid down in EU law.

In particular, if the applicant is an EU citizen, their application can be declared admissible by another Member State only in very exceptional circumstances listed under Protocol 24 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU¹. The level of protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in all Member States is such that all Member States are considered safe countries in relation to asylum matters. This principle is enshrined in the EU Treaties which were agreed by all Member States.

In general, the Commission continuously monitors the implementation of the EU asylum *acquis* through various tools, including through regular exchanges with the Member State authorities and non-governmental stakeholders. In accordance with the Treaties, and among other tools, the Commission retains the prerogative of launching infringement proceedings when it considers that a Member State is not implementing EU law correctly.

¹ Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - PROTOCOLS – Protocol (No 24) on asylum for nationals of Member States of the European Union Official Journal L 15, 09.05.2008 pp. 0305 – 0306.