

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000804/26
to the Commission
Rada Laykova (ESN), Petar Volgin (ESN), Ivaylo Valchev (ECR)
(25 February 2026)**

Subject: Derogation for Bulgaria from the requirement to receive relocated migrants

In mid-December last year, an article appeared in the German publication *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* entitled ‘EU-Asylreform: Erstmal reinen Tisch machen mit den Dublin-Fällen’ (‘EU asylum reform: first clear the decks of all the Dublin cases’ ⁽¹⁾), according to which Bulgaria had been offered a release from its obligations under the mandatory solidarity mechanism provided for in the legal acts of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, but that Bulgaria’s representatives had rejected the derogation proposed. By doing this, Bulgaria has effectively committed itself to receiving and accommodating migrants relocated from other Member States. In direct connection with this comes the recent announcement by the State Agency for Refugees that Bulgaria will build two new closed-controlled migrant centres by the end of this year and the beginning of next year.

We have the following questions for the Commission in this regard:

1. What was the precise reason given by the specific official representative/s of Bulgaria for rejecting the aforementioned proposed derogation?
2. Will the Commission publish the relevant documents so that the authors of this question can acquaint themselves with this matter in detail?
3. Is the aforementioned proposed derogation valid until 3.2.2026 and, if so, for how long after that will it remain valid?

Submitted: 25.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2026)**

In its Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2323 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission identified Bulgaria as a Member State facing a significant migratory situation and at risk of migratory pressure.

In accordance with Article 62 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 on Asylum and Migration Management ⁽²⁾, a Member State facing a significant migratory situation may request a full or partial deduction of its solidarity contributions. This request is then assessed by the Commission and, based on that assessment, the Council may adopt a decision authorising the deduction of the solidarity contribution.

The procedure may be initiated by the Member State concerned and can be asked at any time during the annual migration management cycle.

Since Bulgaria has been identified as a Member State at risk of migratory pressure, it has a priority access to the Permanent EU Migration Support Toolbox established by Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 ⁽³⁾.

The Commission does not disclose or publish bilateral exchanges with Member States.

¹ <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/ausland/eu-asylreform-erstmal-auf-entlastung-von-staaten-an-aussengrenze-verstaendigt-accg-110803088.html>.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L, 2025/2323, 14.11.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/2323/oj.

⁽²⁾ OJ L, 2024/1351, 22.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1351/oj>.

⁽³⁾ Please see footnote 2.