

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000916/26
to the Commission
Emil Radev (PPE)
(4 March 2026)**

Subject: EU preparedness for potential migratory pressure connected with the escalating tensions in the Middle East

Several countries have already been caught up in the escalating conflict in the Middle East, which is affecting strategic areas such as transport, energy and security.

The Commission has warned that the crisis may have a direct impact on the EU. The strikes on Cyprus and Türkiye testify to the real danger that the area subject to tensions will continue to grow. At the same time, analysts and international organisations are forecasting that further escalation or graver destabilisation in the region may trigger fresh migration flows to Europe. Countries like Bulgaria which are protecting the EU's external borders could be among the first affected.

In this connection:

1. How serious does the Commission currently consider the risk to be of an increase in migratory pressure at the EU's external borders stemming from the escalating tensions in the Middle East?
2. What preventive measures can be taken at EU level to improve coordination and control, and is the use of additional instruments being considered, including operational support from Frontex, expert assistance from the EU Asylum Agency (EUAA) and other financial mechanisms, especially in the case of countries that are in the front line when it comes to migration?
3. How well prepared does the Commission think Member States are to implement the mechanisms provided for in the new Pact on Migration and Asylum, which are about to come into force?

Submitted: 4.3.2026

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

The situation in the Middle East raises significant challenges, including in the area of migration. For the time being, there are no increased migratory flows to the EU.

The Commission is monitoring developments, tracking migratory flows through the EU Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint Network ⁽¹⁾ in cooperation with Member States, the European External Action Service, EU Agencies, as well as the International Organisation for Migration, UN High Commissioner for Refugees ⁽²⁾ and partner countries.

As the situation on the ground may evolve rapidly, the EU must be prepared and act decisively to address challenges, mobilising its diplomatic, legal, operational and financial tools.

The Commission is addressing the evolving emergency needs on the ground by supporting partner countries, including through cooperation with international organisations in both immediate and longer-term response efforts.

National systems need to be fully prepared for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽³⁾ and in terms of contingency planning both at the external borders and within the national asylum and migration systems.

EU agencies stand ready to provide operational and technical support. Member States' national programmes under Home Affairs Fund programmes can be used to respond to situations of increased migratory pressure and, if needed, emergency assistance or other forms of additional support can be mobilised.

The Commission continues to monitor the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. While progress has been made, work needs to be intensified, and the remaining gaps need to be closed.

The Commission supports Member States to ensure the establishment of a well-prepared migration management system, including measures to ensure preparedness, contingency planning and crisis response.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1366 of 23 September 2020 on an EU mechanism for preparedness and management of crises related to migration: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2020/1366/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Known as the UN Refugee Agency.

⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.