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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.8.2026)

According to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)¹, 7860 illegal border crossings were recorded along the Western Mediterranean route in the first half of 2026. The main nationalities detected were Algerians, Malians and Moroccans.

Migration objectives will be achieved through enhancing the cooperation with partner countries and implementing the Pact on Asylum and Migration².

Externally the EU addresses this in cooperation with partner countries through regular migration dialogues, which proved effective in reducing arrivals on most routes. On the Western Mediterranean route, dialogue is maintained with all partners, including Algeria and countries of origin and transit. The EU stands ready to support external border surveillance, notably with Frontex assistance, at the request of Member States hosting joint operations.

Internally, the Pact on Migration and Asylum introduced border procedures on those grounds indicated by the law to ensure efficient management of asylum applications and return processes. Faster processing of applications for international protection enables prompt returns after rejection decisions. The Return Border Procedure Regulation³ provides for clear, simplified and common rules for effective returns at the EU's borders.

Under Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1348⁴ every application for international protection must be examined as to its admissibility or merits, on an individual basis. Therefore, eligibility for international protection cannot be determined solely on the basis of an applicant's country of origin being designated as safe.

The return of illegally staying third-country nationals is the responsibility of individual Member States.

¹ Frontex migratory map: <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/what-we-do/monitoring-and-risk-analysis/migratory-map/>.

² The Pact on Migration and Asylum: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en?prefLang=uk.

³ Regulation (EU) 2024/1349 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a return border procedure and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1148: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1349/oj>.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1348/oj>.