

**Question for written answer E-000757/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jean-Paul Garraud (ID)

Subject: Excessively long migrant return operations

According to a Council document dated 29 January 2021¹, the Commission views as satisfactory the eight-month period that Member States have to complete operations to return irregular migrants to their countries of origin.

The Member States met in a Council working party on 3 February 2021 and expressed their concern about the document, taking the view that the eight-month period would cause a range of problems, including the financial burden of dealing with illegal migrants and the risk that they will abscond within the EU, making it impossible to return them to their country of origin.

The countries on the front line think this period is much too long and that it should be cut to four months, or even to five or six weeks.

Is the Commission intending to shorten this time period in its migration and asylum pact, given the problems mentioned above?

¹ <http://bit.ly/36GbYb8>