

**Question for written answer E-001030/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Protection of the Union's external borders

Eight Member States of the Union, including Austria, are calling on the Commission to strengthen the protection of the Union's external borders¹. They are calling, inter alia, for a reform of the European asylum system so that migrants who are not allowed to stay in the Union can be deported more effectively. The countries concerned argue that there is a need to better protect the Union's external borders in order to ensure the security of EU citizens and prevent irregular migration. They call for stronger cooperation between the Member States of the Union to control external borders and combat irregular migration. The demands are linked to the increasing number of migrants trying to enter the Union, in particular through the eastern external borders.

1. How does the Commission plan to address calls from countries such as Austria to strengthen the protection of the Union's external borders and to reform the Common European Asylum System in order to prevent irregular migration?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that Member States cooperate closely in implementing border control measures at the Union's external borders and in combating irregular migration?

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¹ <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000143292864/oesterreich-und-sieben-weitere-laender-fordern-mehr-eu-grenzschutz>