

**Question for written answer E-000249/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Milan Zver (PPE)

Subject: Inappropriate statements by the Director of the European Border and Coastguard Agency

In a recent interview for *Berliner Zeitung*, Hans Leijtens, the Director of Frontex, said: 'Migration is a reality. I want to put a stop to "alarmism" in the debate about replacing indigenous people with Afro-Arab armies. Nothing can stop people from crossing a border – no wall, no fence, no sea, no river.'

The Director's statements may well reflect his values and beliefs, but they stand in stark contrast to his basic task of protecting Europe's borders against illegal crossings and crime. Years ago, when we set up Frontex, and later when we decided to increase the agency's staff numbers owing to increased migration pressure on Europe's borders, we did not imagine that it could be led by someone who is convinced that there is no tool to deter migrants from crossing the borders illegally.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following question:

As guardian of the Treaties, does it consider Mr Leijtens to be suitable to manage the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, whose main task is to assist Member States in managing their external borders, preventing irregular migration and fighting cross-border crime?

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