The European Commission announced in its 2024 work program that it would modernize the legal framework to fight the smuggling of migrants, to ensure that the EU had the necessary legal and operational tools to respond to the new modus operandi of smugglers. It is estimated that more than 90% of the irregular migrants who reach the EU make use of the services of smugglers, mostly organised in criminal groups. Moreover, smuggling networks make substantial profits from their criminal activities.

The aim of the proposed directive is to:

- effectively prosecute organised criminal networks responsible for migrant smuggling;
- harmonise penalties, reflecting the seriousness of the offence;
- improve jurisdictional reach;
- reinforce Member States’ resources and capacities;
- improve data collection and reporting.

In the European Parliament, the proposal has been assigned to the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE). Birgit Sippel was appointed as rapporteur for the proposal at the LIBE Committee.

References:

- EP Legislative Observatory, Procedure file on combating illegal immigration: minimum rules to prevent and counter the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the Union, 2023/04399 (COD)

Author: Anja Radjenovic, Members’ Research Service, legislative-train@europarl.europa.eu
Further reading:

Visit the European Parliament homepage on Migration.
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