

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Magnus BRUNNER****Internal Affairs and Migration****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? How will you contribute to implementing the political guidelines of the Commission? How will you implement gender mainstreaming and integrate a gender perspective into all policy areas of your portfolio? How will you implement youth mainstreaming?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

Can you commit to duly informing Parliament about your actions and those of your departments? In what respect do you consider yourself accountable to Parliament?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of your engagement with and presence in Parliament, both in committee and in plenary, transparency, cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with timely information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

3. Migration and Asylum

The new Pact on Migration and Asylum introduces a legislative framework that establishes a comprehensive system in the areas of asylum and migration management, balancing between solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility in accordance with Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and protecting fundamental rights, while reinforcing mutual trust between Member States.

How will you monitor the timely progress of the administrative, operational, and legal steps required to be taken by Member States and EU agencies for the full entry into application of the Pact by summer 2026, and how will you address any delays in meeting the Common Implementation Plan benchmarks? What steps do you plan to take to ensure sufficient and timely EU funding for Member States and agencies for the smooth application of the Pact? Given that accurate data from Member States to EU agencies and the Commission is vital for identifying the preparedness and the actual needs of each Member State to be able to manage a situation of migratory pressure or crisis, what actions will you take to foster a culture of data sharing and mutual trust?

Working with Member States on a stronger coordination of rescue operations is also part of your mission letter. How do you see your role and that of the EU in this area?

According to your mission letter you should be developing a new common approach to the return of irregularly staying migrants based on modern rules; what legislative steps do you intend to take? What role do you consider mutually recognised return decisions to play in this context, and how will you strengthen readmission policies to ensure effective returns? How will you ensure that migration issues are an operational part of our comprehensive partnerships with third countries while fully respecting fundamental rights and how will you involve the Parliament, ensuring that it is able to exercise effective oversight and its budgetary prerogatives? What is your understanding of 'innovative operational solutions to counter irregular migration' that your mission letter requires you to steer reflection on? What steps do you plan in the fight against migrant smugglers and human traffickers?

A successful EU common approach on migration needs to be complemented by safe and viable legal pathways, including resettlement for refugees and their successful integration in communities and labour markets. What steps will you take to ensure that Member States participate fully and meaningfully in the EU Resettlement Framework? As regards legal migration, your mission letter states that you will work on how to attract third-country nationals with the right skills to match local labour market needs in the EU; what steps will you take to support the legislators in their work on the establishment of an EU Talent Pool, the promotion of measures simplifying the recognition of foreign qualifications, and the finalisation of the negotiations on the Long-Term Residents Directive? Which other steps, legislative or non-legislative, do you plan to take in this area?

4. External borders

With a view to securing stronger external borders and strengthening Frontex, Commission President von der Leyen intends to triple the number of European border and coast guards reaching a Standing Corps of 30,000. You would be responsible for overseeing this process and promoting integrated border management. How do you assess the impact of providing Frontex with those additional resources on enhancing the EU's ability to address current and emerging threats at its external borders? What changes to the mandate of Frontex, if any, do you consider necessary to accompany the planned growth of the agency, while maintaining its accountability to the Parliament?

What counter measures and steps are you planning to undertake, working closely with Member States and stakeholders to prepare and respond to hybrid attacks and the instrumentalisation of migrants at the EU's external borders?

How do you envisage to observe the use of technologies in compliance with primary law and the AI Act in the context of the European digital border management? What steps will you take to avoid further delays to the start of operation of the Entry/Exit System and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System and to the implementation of the overall reform of the EU information systems for borders, security and migration?

What measures should, in your view, be part of the announced visa policy strategy? In this context, what initiatives do you envisage in order to guarantee that visa-free travel into the EU is not abused, including by visa-free third countries operating investor citizenship schemes, and to preserve the social and economic benefits of visa-free travel? Are you ready to act against the risks of so-called "golden visa" programmes adopted by some Member States, as requested by the European Parliament?

5. Internal borders

The Schengen area is one of the most valued achievements of the Union. Yet several Member States have reintroduced and maintained border control at internal borders since 2015. How do you intend to ensure that the integrity of the Schengen area is restored and preserved? What steps do you envisage in order to reinforce sincere cooperation and mutual trust among the Member States and to ensure that all Member States fully respect the Schengen acquis? Will those measures include infringement proceedings against the Member States that do not respect the rules of the recently amended Schengen Borders Code? What steps will you propose that will lead to the lifting of controls at the internal land borders with Bulgaria and Romania?

6. Security

According to your mission letter, one of your most urgent tasks will be to design a new European Internal Security Strategy, which should include strengthening Europol's mandate and resources. What measures would you propose to effectively combat serious and organised crime, terrorism and cybercrime? What legislative initiatives would you consider in this area? How do you plan to make Europol into 'a truly operational police agency', while ensuring that it does not overlap with national and other EU Agencies' competences, and that the Parliament has effective oversight? What role would you foresee for Eurojust in this context? Can we also expect legislative proposals to enable law enforcement and judicial authorities to cooperate better across borders in countering criminal networks? What do you plan to include in the new Counter-Terrorism Agenda and how do you plan to address radicalisation and violent extremism?

As the Commissioner in charge for a safer and more secure Europe, how do you view your role in ensuring the effective implementation and updating of the EU strategies aiming to combat antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred and to foster integration? How will you cooperate with the Commissioner for Equality in this field?

7. Access to data for law enforcement purposes

How do you propose to address the key challenge of ensuring effective access to personal data in order to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute criminal offences, while simultaneously complying with the principles of necessity and proportionality and upholding privacy and data protection rights? Which safeguards do you envisage

in order to ensure full compliance with the European Court of Justice rulings on data retention and access to data for law enforcement purposes? Will you also address encryption when proposing rules on access? How do you plan to unblock the Child Sexual Abuse online proposal to ensure that its main goal of protecting children is fulfilled and the concerns about safeguarding the right to privacy are addressed? Should there not be a Regulation on this file prior to the lapse of the second extension of the Interim Regulation, due on 3 April 2026, how will you propose to proceed to avoid the legislative gap?

Question from the Committee on Development

8. In view of your work on external aspects of migration and mobility, and given that the NDICI-Global Europe regulation indicates that 10% of its funding be allocated to addressing migration and forced displacement, how will you concretely go about the assignment in your mission letter to “make migration issues an operational part of partnerships”, more specifically with developing countries, and how will you reflect the principle of Policy Coherence for Development in this work? Can you commit to ensuring comprehensive and early information to the Parliament to allow appropriate scrutiny of migration-related agreements with developing countries, including transparency about informal arrangements on migration such as Memoranda of Understanding? How do you foresee the cooperation and division of work on external aspects of migration with other Commissioners?