

Question for written answer E-001963/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Balkan route – call for EU action to contain the influx of immigrants

The irregular immigrants invading Europe pose a threat, since the Islamic extremists behind acts of violence and attacks arrived via the Mediterranean and Balkan routes.

Israel's efforts to defend itself against terrorist groups in Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen make the Balkan route – the main land-based migratory path into the EU – a source of even greater danger, as a potential entry route for highly hazardous material. With many of the arrivals heading to north-eastern Italy, this is one of the areas most at risk.

Bosnia appears to be the Achilles' heel, while some EU support dressed up as humanitarian aid could indirectly help fuel this influx.

Faced with these new risks, action must be taken to stem these flows and cut off the funds that are supporting this 'asylum tourism'.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to take action – and how will it do so – to protect Europe's borders and regulate access from Bosnia and elsewhere, perhaps even by providing police?
2. Will it take steps to thwart this lucrative traffic by revising the rules on pushbacks and improving centres in third countries?

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