

**Question for written answer E-003012/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Special report 17/2024 of the European Court of Auditors: The EU trust fund for Africa (EUTF)

The report states that a disproportionate share of funding was allocated to ‘protection of vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, and community stabilisation’ and barely any to returning them to their countries of origin. The Court of Auditors states that, even after seven years, the Commission is still unable to identify and report on the most efficient and effective approaches to reducing migration.

1. What does the Commission intend to do to ensure that EUTF staff actually cooperate when it comes to return and reintegration and how will the Commission deal with staff who refuse to subscribe to the goal of return and reintegration?
2. Is the Commission considering securing the return of migrants through other means than trust funds, such as putting physical external border infrastructure in place or setting up a return fund?
3. When will the Commission take the return of migrants residing in EU Member States seriously and ensure that European funds invested in the countries of origin actually serve the intended purpose, namely the return of the nationals of those countries who no longer have a future in the EU?

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