

**Question for written answer E-003043/2024**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Undermining EU interests: the Lipa reception centre on the Balkan migration route

Given how migration on the Balkan route is being managed – particularly as regards the Lipa reception centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina – clarification is needed on whether the activities carried out at the centre are consistent with the provisions laid down by the regulation governing IPA III funds.

Financed to the tune of EUR 1.7 million as part of the ‘EU Support to Border and Migration Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina’ project, this multi-purpose centre is supposed to ensure that ID checks are carried out on those entering and leaving the EU. Instead, the Lipa centre is effectively facilitating the illegal crossing of the EU's borders

by migrants who, often working together with criminal networks, use the facility as a logistical base. This state of affairs appears to be at odds with the core principle underpinning the IPA III regulation, which aims to strengthen border checks and tackle illegal immigration.

In view of the above:

1. How exactly does the Commission consider the Lipa reception centre to be operating in line with the rules on EU funding?
2. Will the Commission review the use of the above funds with a view to strengthening security and improving checks at the EU's external borders?

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