





Basic information	
<p>2025/0059(COD)</p> <p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation</p>	Awaiting Council's 1st reading position
<p>Common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Union (Return Regulation)</p> <p>Repealing Directive 2001/40 2000/0819(CNS) Repealing Decision 2004/191 2003/0019(CNS) Repealing Directive 2008/115 2005/0167(COD)</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>7.10 Free movement and integration of third-country nationals 7.10.08 Migration policy</p> <p>Legislative priorities</p> <p>Joint Declaration 2026</p>	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	AZMANI Malik (Renew)	12/05/2025
		<p>Shadow rapporteur</p> <p>BELLAMY François-Xavier (EPP)</p> <p>LAURENT Murielle (S&D)</p> <p>EHLERS Marieke (P/E)</p> <p>WEIMERS Charlie (ECR)</p> <p>CAMARA Mélissa (Greens /EFA)</p> <p>GALÁN Estrella (The Left)</p> <p>KHAN Mary (ESN)</p>	
	Committee for budgetary assessment	Rapporteur for budgetary assessment	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			
European	Commission DG	Commissioner	

Commission	Migration and Home Affairs	BRUNNER Magnus
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Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/03/2025	Legislative proposal published	COM(2025)0101 	Summary
16/06/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
09/03/2026	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
09/03/2026	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
10/03/2026	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0048/2026	Summary
12/03/2026	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
26/03/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/03/2026	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72 - vote)		
15/06/2026	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE790.008 GEDA/A/(2026)003843	
16/06/2026	Debate in Parliament		
17/06/2026	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0207/2026	
17/06/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/0059(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealing Directive 2001/40 2000/0819(CNS) Repealing Decision 2004/191 2003/0019(CNS) Repealing Directive 2008/115 2005/0167(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 58 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 079-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting Council's 1st reading position
Committee dossier	LIBE/10/02423



Documentation gateway			
European Parliament			

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE779.352	30/10/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.171	01/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.173	01/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.174	01/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.175	01/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.176	01/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.177	01/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.178	01/12/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0048/2026	10/03/2026	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE790.008	10/06/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0207/2026	17/06/2026	

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2026)003843	10/06/2026	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2025)0101 	11/03/2025	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2025)0250 	16/05/2025	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2025)0101	17/06/2025	
Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2025)0101	18/06/2025	
Contribution	RO_SENATE	COM(2025)0101	25/06/2025	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2025)0101	30/06/2025	
Contribution	RO_CHAMBER	COM(2025)0101	01/07/2025	
Contribution	DE_BUNDESRAT	COM(2025)0101	08/07/2025	
Reasoned opinion	FR_SENATE	PE775.654	10/07/2025	
Contribution	EL_PARLIAMENT	COM(2025)0101	15/07/2025	
Contribution	NL_SENATE	COM(2025)0101	04/11/2025	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1284/2025	18/09/2025	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	17/03/2025
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	05/05/2026	The Permanent Representative of Austria to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	11/03/2026	Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	18/02/2026	FEANTSA
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	04/02/2026	Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	04/02/2026	UNHCR
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	03/02/2026	Spanish Permanent Representation
LAURENT Murielle	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	02/02/2026	Comité catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement -Terre Solidaire
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	28/01/2026	Stichting Vluchteling
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	28/01/2026	IOM
EHLERS Marieke	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	26/01/2026	Stichting Vluchteling
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	22/01/2026	FIAD
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	19/01/2026	permanent representation of Austria
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	15/01/2026	Delegation of the Cyprus Presidency
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	14/01/2026	Adviesraad Internationale Vraagstukken en de Adviesraad Migratie
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	14/01/2026	Hoogleraar Arjen Leerkes
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	09/01/2026	Permanent Representation of France to the EU

AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	12/12/2025	Permanent Representation of France to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	09/12/2025	Finish Minister of Interior
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	01/12/2025	Beate Gminder of DG Migration & Home Affairs
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	26/11/2025	Commissioner for Human Rights O'Flaherty
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	25/11/2025	Dutch Permanent Representation
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	20/11/2025	Fundamental Rights Officer Frontex
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	17/11/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	17/11/2025	IOM
CAMARA Mélissa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	17/11/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	13/11/2025	EU-Lisa
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	12/11/2025	Anders Hall, State Secretary to Minister for Migration Johan Forssell
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	06/11/2025	Dutch Permanent Representation
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	06/11/2025	Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	05/11/2025	Hessen state secretary
CAMARA Mélissa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	05/11/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	04/11/2025	EU-LISA
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	04/11/2025	Permanent Representation of France to the EU
STRADA Cecilia	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	04/11/2025	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	31/10/2025	Danish presidency
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	22/10/2025	Frontex
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	17/10/2025	FRA
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	16/10/2025	Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	16/10/2025	Aniel Pahladsingh
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	15/10/2025	Deputy Minister of Migration Cyprus
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	07/10/2025	Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	07/10/2025	Frontex
EHLERS Marieke	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	02/10/2025	Stichting Vluchteling Refugee platform Egypt Klikaktiv
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	02/10/2025	Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	25/09/2025	Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU

AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	24/09/2025	EUAA
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	23/09/2025	ECRE
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	23/09/2025	Permanent representation of Portugal to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	23/09/2025	Permanent representation of Lithuania to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	15/09/2025	Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	15/09/2025	Permanent representation of France to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	15/09/2025	Permanent representation of Denmark to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	09/09/2025	Permanent representation of Cyprus to the EU
LAURENT Murielle	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	08/09/2025	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	05/09/2025	Italian authorities
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	02/09/2025	Amnesty International
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	16/07/2025	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	08/07/2025	Prefecture of Strasbourg
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	03/07/2025	Permanent representation of Bulgaria to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	02/07/2025	Permanent representation of Finland to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	02/07/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	02/07/2025	Permanent representation of Italy to the EU
LAURENT Murielle	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	02/07/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	02/07/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	01/07/2025	Frontex
CAMARA MéliSSa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	01/07/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	30/06/2025	Permanent representation of Denmark to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	26/06/2025	Eu-LISA
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	26/06/2025	Stichting Vluchtelingenwerk en International Rescue Committee
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	25/06/2025	Permanent representation of Cyprus to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	24/06/2025	UNHCR
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	24/06/2025	Permanent representation of Austria to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	20/06/2025	IND en DT&V
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	17/06/2025	EU-LISA
CAMARA MéliSSa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	11/06/2025	Cimade

CAMARA Mélissa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	11/06/2025	Amnesty International Limited
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	10/06/2025	Morten Nykjær Krøjgaard JHA Counsellor Denmark
CAMARA Mélissa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	06/06/2025	Médecins Sans Frontières International
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	05/06/2025	French Permanent Representative to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	05/06/2025	Permanent representation of Sweden to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	03/06/2025	Permanent representation of Germany to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	03/06/2025	Permanent representation of Austria to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	02/06/2025	Permanent representation of Greece to the EU
BELLAMY François-Xavier	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	27/05/2025	UNHCR
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	22/05/2025	United Nations Human Rights
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	19/05/2025	Meijers committee
CAMARA Mélissa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	19/05/2025	Commissie Meijers
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	15/05/2025	Danish Refugee Council Brussels
EHLERS Marieke	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	13/05/2025	HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS Save the Children Europe The Netherlands Refugee Foundation
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	13/05/2025	HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS Save the Children Europe Stichting Vluchteling
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	13/05/2025	Permanent representation of Spain to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	13/05/2025	FRA EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	06/05/2025	French Permanent Representative to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	06/05/2025	Belgian permanent representative to the EU
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	30/04/2025	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	30/04/2025	DG Home
CAMARA Mélissa	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	28/04/2025	Forum réfugiés
AZMANI Malik	Rapporteur	LIBE	22/04/2025	Permanent representation of Poland to the EU

Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives
LENAERS Jeroen	24/06/2026	Save the Children Europe
LENAERS Jeroen	15/04/2026	VluchtelingenWerk Nederland

SIPPEL Birgit	15/04/2026	EKD-Büro Brüssel / EKD-Office Brussels
STRADA Cecilia	24/03/2026	Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (FLAI Federazione di categoria della CGIL)
SIPPEL Birgit	18/03/2026	Deutscher Caritasverband e. V. Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte e.V. Diakonie Deutschland EKD-Büro Brüssel / EKD-Office Brussels Equal Rights Beyond Borders e.V. European Council on Refugees and Exiles Jesuit Refugee Service - Europe Médecins Sans Frontières International UNICEF UNHCR Paritätischer Gesamtverband
SIPPEL Birgit	03/03/2026	Amnesty International Limited Centre for European Policy Studies Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
SIPPEL Birgit	26/02/2026	Permanent Representation of Germany
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	24/02/2026	International Rescue Committee Inc Stichting Vluchteling
SIPPEL Birgit	24/02/2026	International Rescue Committee Inc
VAUTMANS Hilde	13/02/2026	11.11.11, Koepel van Internationale Solidariteit
SIPPEL Birgit	06/02/2026	PICUM
SIPPEL Birgit	04/02/2026	CEPS PICUM
SIPPEL Birgit	03/02/2026	Tavolo asilo e immigrazione
STRADA Cecilia	17/11/2025	Access Now Europe
VAUTMANS Hilde	14/11/2025	Médecins du monde Belgique
OETJEN Jan-Christoph	06/11/2025	Amnesty International Limited Caritas Europa European Council on Refugees and Exiles International Rescue Committee Inc Jesuit Refugee Service - Europe
TARQUINIO Marco	28/08/2025	Maison du Peuple d'Europe (MPE) - Europees Volkshuis (EVH)
SIPPEL Birgit	01/07/2025	European Council on Refugees and Exiles Party of European Socialists UNHCR
SIPPEL Birgit	30/06/2025	Caritas Europa Deutscher Caritasverband e. V.
SIPPEL Birgit	31/03/2025	PES
STRADA Cecilia	25/03/2025	Maison du Peuple d'Europe (MPE) - Europees Volkshuis (EVH)
SIPPEL Birgit	06/03/2025	Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration

Common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Union (Return Regulation)

2025/0059(COD) - 11/03/2025 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a Common European System for Returns with swifter, simpler and more effective return procedures across the EU.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the EU is putting in place an integrated, sustainable and comprehensive EU migration policy, one that is both fair and firm. The Pact on Migration and Asylum agreed between the European Parliament and the Council in 2024 equips the EU with the legal framework and tools to further enhance the effective management of its external borders and set up fast and efficient procedures for asylum. Work is progressing at full speed to ensure its comprehensive implementation by mid-2026.

Establishing a common and effective European return system is a central pillar of the Pact on Immigration and Asylum. Currently, **only around 20% of third-country nationals ordered to leave the EU actually do so**. Those ordered to leave the country often evade authorities and travel to other Member States. In addition, the current patchwork of 27 different national return systems, each with its own approach and procedures, undermines the effectiveness of returns at the Union level. This calls for a thorough overhaul of the way return policy is legislated in the EU.

CONTENT: the proposed regulation repeals the existing Return Directive, which dates back to 2008. The Commission's 2018 [proposal](#) to recast the Return Directive will be repealed. The overall objective of this proposal is to increase the efficiency of the return process by providing Member States with clear, modern, simplified, and common rules to effectively manage returns and to make the process clearer for both the competent authorities and the third-country national concerned.

The new common rules include:

Common procedural rules for the issuance of return-related decisions

The proposal includes common rules for the issuance of return decisions and imposition of entry bans. This ensures third-country nationals are treated equally in all Member States and helps ensure that divergences between Member States systems cannot be exploited. Definitions have been updated in the light of the practice since the adoption of the Return Directive and, where applicable, have been aligned with the definitions in the newly adopted legal acts composing the Pact, ensuring uniformity, clarity and predictability across the migration process.

Clear rules on forced return, while incentivising voluntary return

The proposal clarifies when the return decision should be enforced through removal, and defines voluntary return, thus creating clarity and predictability for both the authorities responsible and third-country nationals. This in turn strengthens voluntary returns, as forced return becomes a clear and credible instrument. The proposal clarifies the provisions on forced return monitoring.

Stronger obligations for returnees balanced against clear safeguards

Explicit **obligations for third-country nationals to cooperate with national authorities** throughout the entire return procedure are laid down. These are complemented by clear consequences in case of non-cooperation such as the reduction or refusal of allowances or seizure of travel documents. At the same time, incentives to cooperate will be strengthened, including support for voluntary return.

Strong safeguards throughout the entire return process

All measures related to return must be carried out in full respect of fundamental and international **human rights** standards. This is ensured through clear procedures such as the right to appeal, support for vulnerable persons, strong safeguards for minors and families and the adherence to the principle of non-refoulement.

A European Return Order

While Member States will still issue their own return decisions, the proposal introduces a European Return Order, which will complement Member States' return decisions to provide clarity across Member States. The European Return Order, which is a common form that will include the key elements of the return decision, will be available through the Schengen Information System. The European Return Order will be established through an implementing act. The proposal also introduces a significant procedural simplification by providing a **mechanism for directly enforcing a return decision issued by another Member State**.

Stricter rules to limit abuse and manage absconding

Member States will be equipped with reinforced rules to locate returnees, with the possibility to request a financial guarantee, regular reporting or to reside in a place designated by national authorities. The new rules set out clear conditions for detention if there is a risk of absconding as well as alternatives to detention. Detention may go up to 24 months, compared to 18 months currently. In addition, the suspensive effect of return decisions will no longer be automatic, unless there are issues related to non-refoulement.

Specific rules for people posing security risks

Member States will have to screen early-on whether a person presents a security risk. Once identified, such individuals become subject to **strict rules**, including mandatory forced return, longer entry bans, separate detention grounds. Detention may be extended beyond the normal 24 months on order of a judge.

Return hubs

This proposal introduces the legal possibility to return individuals who are illegally staying in the EU and have received a final return decision, to a third country **based on an agreement or arrangement** concluded bilaterally or at EU level. Such an agreement or arrangement can be concluded with a third

country that **respects international human rights standards and principles** in accordance with international law, including the principle of non-refoulement. Families with minors and unaccompanied minors are excluded and the implementation of such agreements or arrangements must be subject to monitoring.

Readmission

The proposal embeds readmission as an integral part of the return process. It establishes a common procedural approach to the submission of readmission requests, including through a standard form for readmission requests and the systematic follow-up of return decisions with readmission requests. It increases transparency and coordination in the approach towards third countries on readmission, while maintaining flexibility for Member States.

Common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Union (Return Regulation)

2025/0059(COD) - 10/03/2026 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted the report by Malik AZMANI (Renew, NL) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Union, and repealing Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, Council Directive 2001/40/EC and Council Decision 2004/191/EC.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

Objective

Members specify that this regulation establishes a comprehensive common system for returning third-country nationals with no right to stay in or enter the Union based on a common procedure for return and readmission, effective cooperation with third countries, a system for the mutual recognition and enforcement of return decisions, a system for preventing and managing the risk of absconding and cooperation based on mutual trust between Member States.

A common procedure for **effective return that is firm and fair** should be set up to ensure that third-country nationals who do not, or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry, stay or residence on the territory of the Member States are returned in a humane and sustainable manner and with full respect for fundamental rights as well as international law without undue delay.

Return decision

Once it is established that the third-country national does not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry, stay or residence on the territory of the Member States, a return decision should be swiftly issued based on an individual assessment taking into account all facts and circumstances. The return decision should state **the obligation for the third-country national to leave the territory of the Member States**.

A third-country national subject to an obligation to leave should bear the primary responsibility for departing the territory of the Member States in accordance with the return decision.

Return of minors

The report clarifies that where there are reasonable grounds to consider that a person claiming to be a minor may pose a threat to public order or national security, the competent authorities should ensure that the age assessment procedure is conducted as a matter of priority and without undue delay, in full respect of the principles of necessity and proportionality. The competent authority may rely on previous age assessment conducted in previous states of the return or other relevant procedures. A Member State may recognise age assessment decisions taken by other Member States where the age assessments were carried out in compliance with Union law.

Furthermore, a refusal to undergo an age assessment, including the medical examination should not prevent the determining authority from taking a decision on the age of the third-country national.

Obligation to cooperate

Third-country nationals should **comply with the obligation to leave the territory of the Member States and cooperate with the competent authorities** of the Member States at all stages of the return and readmission procedures. Third-country nationals should:

- remain available to the authorities on the territory of the Member State competent for the return procedure of which the third-country national is the subject and not abscond to another Member State;
- not physically obstruct the enforcement of the return;
- provide, without undue delay, all information and physical and digital documentation, including copies and electronic records necessary for establishing or verifying identity;
- not mislead the authorities or withhold relevant information or provide forged documents;

- provide information on the third countries transited, the travel routes used, or other third countries with which he or she may have a connection or through which he or she may have transited.

In case the obligations to cooperate are not respected, **effective, dissuasive and proportionate consequences** should be imposed, including for instance reduced benefits and allowances granted in accordance with national law, seizure of identity or travel documents or the extension of the duration of an entry ban.

Third-country nationals may, throughout the return procedure, be subject to measures such as the obligation to remain in a geographical area within the territory of the Member State where they can move freely, or the obligation to reside at a specific address or location designated by the competent authority.

Suspensive effect

The proposed regulation does not provide for the automatic suspensive effect of an appeal. However, a third-country national should be able to submit a request to suspend the enforcement of a return decision.

Entry ban

Return decisions should be accompanied by an entry ban when: (i) the third-country national is subject to removal; (ii) the obligation to leave the territory of the Member States has not been complied with within the time limits set; (iii) the third-country national poses a security risk.

Detention

To prepare their effective and timely return, third country nationals can be detained, for example if they are not cooperating, present a risk of absconding, pose a security risk, or for any other relevant factor impeding timely removal. Grounds for detention would be laid down in national law and detention should be ordered by administrative or judicial authorities. Detention can also be ordered for **unaccompanied minors and families with children**, as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period and taking into account the best interests of the child. The period of detention can be up to **24 months**. Member states can also provide alternatives to detention.

External dimension and cooperation with third countries

The EU and the Member States should pursue balanced and comprehensive partnerships with third countries, in which return, readmission and reintegration constitute core components of their engagement.