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## THE SECRET EUROPEAN COMMISSION GROUP DRIVING EU DEPORTATIONS

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EU Observer (6 March 2026)

Cosette MOLIJN and Anas AMBRI

A secretive network of officials within the European Commission is leading the push for more pro-deportation policies across the European Union amid intense political pressure to expel as many people as possible.

First launched in late 2022, the so-called High Level Network for Returns (HLNR) used the 7 October Hamas terror attack on Israel as a justification to enforce the exchange of data of individuals with a deportation order and flagged as potential terrorists, according to documents released through a freedom of information request.

The network also discussed setting up special charter flights to deport such individuals.

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