

Question for written answer E-000765/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Spain breaches the principle of sincere cooperation by regularising 500 000 irregular migrants

The European Commission recently presented a five-year strategy on migration and asylum, at the heart of which is new common system for the return of third-country nationals who do not have a right to legal stay or asylum in the European Union.

Meanwhile, Spain has suddenly adopted a policy advocating mass regularisation of irregular migrants, who may have entered the country just five months ago. This choice violates the principle of sincere cooperation laid down in Article 4 TEU and is not in line with the common European priority that was set to bolster joint Europe-wide returns to non-EU countries.

What is more, the initiative in question may create a distortion and problems in the Schengen area, as it may give rise to uncontrolled movements within Member States.

Finally, it actually sends out a message of hope that mass regularisations could happen at any moment, thus encouraging new migration flows.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it assess this breach of the principle of sincere cooperation and its incompatibility with the objectives and principles of the new five-year EU strategy on migration and asylum, in particular with regard to return policies?
2. What critical coordination tools is it proposing or already using to ensure that the objective of increasing the rate of returns of irregular migrants is achieved?
3. What further measures can it take to ensure the proper functioning of the Schengen area?

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