Question for written answer E-001937/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Increase in irregular crossings in the Western Mediterranean: what measures will be taken against smugglers and migratory pressure?

According to Frontex, illegal crossings detected at the EU's external borders decreased by around 40% in the first quarter of 2026. However, this overall decrease should not hide a worrying development: the Western Mediterranean route is the only major migratory route to record an increase, with around 4 400 crossings detected over the same period, a rise of 66% year-on-year[1].

This route directly concerns the security of Southern Europe and, in turn, the security of the entire Schengen area. It shows how smuggling networks are quickly able to adapt to the controls and shift flows to points of vulnerability.

Can the Commission say:

1. what additional operational measures will be taken with Frontex to strengthen surveillance in the Western Mediterranean?

2. whether European resources will be mobilised specifically to combat the networks of smugglers active on this route?

3. whether it will propose making aid, visas and cooperation agreements with countries of origin and transit more strictly conditional on verifiable results in terms of both preventing departures and readmission?

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[1] https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-irregular-border-crossings-down-40-in-q1-2026-agQvWE.