

Question for written answer E-003218/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Loss of control over the border in Ceuta and Spain's exclusion from the Schengen area

According to the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, 72 000 migrants crossed into Ceuta from Morocco from 30 to 31 July 2026. This unprecedented border breach has laid bare the consequences of the policies pursued by the Sánchez government, which has just carried out the mass regularisation of illegal migrants' residence status, strengthening the pull factor.

Italy has reinstated checks on people arriving from Spain by air and sea, whilst France has stepped up controls at the Spanish border. A letter from 22 EU leaders, spearheaded by Italy and Denmark in the wake of the crisis and calling for the removal of factors encouraging illegal migration, demonstrates a loss of confidence in Spain's policies and its ability to protect the Schengen area.

Articles 13 and 15 of the Schengen Borders Code call for effective border surveillance and the deployment of adequate staff and resources.

1. Will the Commission immediately call on the Council, pursuant to Article 29 of the Schengen Borders Code, to reinstate border controls with Spain, which would de facto exclude it from the Schengen Area until an EU inspection confirms that Spain has permanently secured the border and prevented such a crisis from recurring?
2. Will the Commission guarantee that no migrant will be admitted to the mainland Schengen area without their identity having been established and them having undergone security checks?
3. What mandatory corrective measures will the Commission propose to the Council to prevent such a crisis from recurring, and what consequences will the Sánchez government face if it fails once again to protect the border?

Submitted: 6.8.2026