

Question for written answer E-003413/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Serious statements by Markus Lammert regarding the expulsion of unaccompanied children and persons in need of international protection in Ceuta

On 18 August 2026, Markus Lammert, the Commission spokesperson for home affairs, made concerning statements encouraging the expulsion of people who had arrived in Ceuta, including unaccompanied minors and persons in need of international protection, who are entitled to legal safeguards regardless of their migration status.

It is particularly serious that the Commission would encourage a Member State to act in breach of international and European law, while also failing to ensure individual assessments, access to the asylum procedure, the principle of non-refoulement and the best interests of the child, as well as obligations arising from EU fundamental rights and under international conventions.

In this context:

1. What is the Commission's priority in responding to the crisis in Ceuta: expulsions or ensuring humanitarian assistance, fundamental rights protection and effective access to international protection?
2. Under what legal framework did Mr Lammert propose the expulsion of minors and persons who have expressed their intention to apply for international protection, and does the Commission consider his statements as being compatible with this legal framework?
3. Given that Ceuta is an external border of the EU, will the Commission provide extraordinary financial assistance to Spain and investigate Morocco's possible role in this crisis, and if geopolitical interference in EU and Spanish sovereignty is established, what measures will it take against the countries responsible?

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