

**Question for written answer E-003507/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Ceuta: fact-checking before the facts

Following the mass entry of migrants into Ceuta on 30-31 July 2026, Commission Executive Vice-President Virkkunen stated on 7 August – while organisers and circumstances remained unknown – that Meta and TikTok must act decisively, increase monitoring and strengthen cooperation with fact-checkers¹. On 10 August, she announced Digital Services Act-linked crisis protocols and an ad hoc fact-checking mechanism to ‘stifle criminal networks selling false promises’².

Spain’s National Centre for Immigration and Borders.(CENIF) did not submit its report to the Audiencia Nacional until 31 August 2026 (made public on 1 September)³. It describes a sophisticated, planned operation, highlights permissiveness and active guidance by Moroccan security forces, excludes local criminal organisations as capable organisers and does not identify those ultimately responsible for directing the operation⁴. Social media was therefore an instrument used by third parties, while the facts needed to assess contemporaneous claims only emerged weeks later.

1. What evidence did the Commission have at the time concerning Meta’s and TikTok’s conduct, as distinct from that of users or organisers, and, if it had none, why did it publicly demand increased monitoring and fact-checking?
2. Which specific claims were classified as false, and on what contemporaneous evidence, and were any subsequently confirmed or materially qualified by the CENIF report?
3. Regarding the Commission-coordinated mechanism, what content or accounts were flagged, on what legal basis and with what moderation outcome, and will the Commission publish this audit trail and safeguards protecting lawful or subsequently verified information?

Submitted: 4.9.2026

¹ Henna Virkkunen, statement on X, 7 August 2026, <https://x.com/HennaVirkkunen/status/2085807830074904693>.

² Henna Virkkunen, statements on X, 10 August 2026, concerning the crisis protocols and fact-checking mechanism and the stated aim of ‘stifling criminal networks’ <https://x.com/HennaVirkkunen/status/2086905875889832362> and <https://x.com/HennaVirkkunen/status/2086905877433389465>.

³ El Español, 1 September 2026, https://www.elespanol.com/espana/tribunales/20260901/policia-informa-juez-invasion-ceuta-guiada-gendarmes-marroquies-ordenes-agentes-paisano-fin-distinto-migratorio/1003744369590_0.html.

⁴ Spanish National Police/CENIF, Report on the irregular mass entry into Ceuta, particularly pp. 10, 16–17, 34 and 47–50; see also the detailed account in El País, 2 September 2026, <https://elpais.com/espana/2026-09-02/el-informe-de-la-policia-apunta-que-agentes-marroquies-guiaron-la-entrada-de-migrantes-a-ceuta.html>.