

**Question for written answer E-003857/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Ceuta and Italy's suspension of Schengen

Following the arrival of tens of thousands of people in the Spanish exclave of Ceuta on 30 July 2026, Italy reintroduced controls at air and sea borders with Spain until 16 September, in breach of the Schengen Agreement. This was a disproportionate measure considering that the Commission had declared that there were no movements of persons from Ceuta to Spain or other continental European Member States.

Spain responded by introducing controls on arrivals from Italy. Other Member States have announced plans to send back to Italy any migrants whose asylum applications should have been handled there under the Dublin system.

The action of the Italian Government risks turning a humanitarian emergency into a clash between Member States, fragmenting the Schengen area and fueling the narrative of the sovereignist far-right that the EU is incapable of acting collectively, while relegating human rights and European solidarity to the margins of political debate.

We ask the Commission:

1. Will it ask Italy to lift its border controls?
2. What measures will it take to ensure solidarity between Member States, a solidarity Italy has always demanded from the EU during episodes of large-scale immigration?
3. What measures should be taken to ensure that humanitarianism and the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees remain central to the EU's response?

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