Priority question for written answer P-002752/2026/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Irregular immigration from countries not experiencing armed conflict

Although the latest data published by Frontex[1] for the first five months of 2026 show that the total number of irregular crossings of the EU's external borders is decreasing, the Western Mediterranean route has seen a 46 % increase, driven mainly by departures from Algeria.

These statistics also show that a significant proportion of those arriving irregularly in the EU are coming from countries not experiencing armed conflict, such as the Maghreb countries, Bangladesh, Türkiye and Senegal. This raises the question of how to distinguish between those eligible for international protection and those who are primarily economic migrants.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that the majority of irregular arrivals are from countries that are not at war?

2. What action does it intend to take to bolster external border controls, particularly on the Western Mediterranean route, and to fast-track the return of third-country nationals who do not meet the conditions required to be granted international protection?

3. Given that some of those countries are designated 'safe countries of origin', why should NGOs not take the migrants they pick up off the coasts of the countries concerned back to those countries?

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[1] https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-irregular-border-crossings-into-the-eu-down-40-in-the-first-five-months-of-2026-h4gbBB?etrans=fr.