

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002575/24
to the Commission
Gabriel Mato (PPE)
(19 November 2024)**

Subject: Canaries migrant crisis: economic aid to the region

The Canary Islands have been facing a migrant crisis for two years now. They have become the main entry point for irregular migrants in Spain and one of the favoured destinations of human traffickers. In 2023, 39 000 people arrived in the Canary Islands and 45 000 are estimated to arrive in 2024. There have been 5 000 deaths so far this year, and the Canary Islands are overstretched in their reception capacity, especially for unaccompanied minors, who number more than 4 500. The European Union has funds such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, which provides support to Member States for ‘support infrastructure for the reception of third-country nationals’ as well as ‘Union actions, emergency assistance and support to local and regional authorities for integration’.

1. Has the Spanish Government applied for this financial aid or other aid available through the various EU funds to alleviate the effects of the migrant crisis in the Canary Islands or elsewhere in Spain? If so, on how many occasions, how much and for what purposes?
2. Has the Spanish Government requested aid of any kind to alleviate the migrant crisis? If so, has it requested any specific aid for the reception of migrants, especially unaccompanied minors?

Submitted: 19.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(23 January 2025)**

In 2024, Spanish authorities have applied for additional support from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) under the call ‘Reception capacity for Member States under pressure’ for EUR 9.5 million (supporting the increase of the reception capacity in the mainland and the Canary Islands), and under the call ‘Member States under pressure — unaccompanied minors’ (supporting the reorganisation of the care system for unaccompanied minors in Andalusia) for EUR 15 million. Both proposals were selected by the Commission and additional funding was added to the Spanish AMIF programme.

Furthermore, upon the request from the Spanish authorities, the Commission granted support under emergency assistance twice in 2024.

The first one for a total amount of EUR 20 million under the AMIF, with the objective to relieve the migratory pressure in the reception facilities in Canary Islands.

The second action for EUR 17.5 million under the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI), to strengthen the capacity of the Canary Islands to assist and identify immigrants arriving on its coasts.

In addition to the financial support described above, the Spanish authorities are receiving support by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) in the framework of the Agencies operational plans.

Regarding the reception of unaccompanied minors, the EUAA is providing support to enhance the administrative capacity of the reception authorities of the Canary Islands through the Ministry of Childhood and Youth.
