

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000164/25
to the Commission
Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez (PPE)
(15 January 2025)**

Subject: Increase in drug trafficking on the River Guadalquivir

On 30 December 2024, in Coria del Río (Seville), the Spanish Guardia Civil seized the largest cocaine haul brought into southern Spain by speedboat to date. In total, police officers seized seven tonnes of cocaine and a number of weapons that were being transported up the Guadalquivir.

In the wake of this, statements from police officers and local press reports have warned that the Guadalquivir has become an increasingly vital route for cocaine entering Europe. The river, already known in the press as the ‘kilometre zero’ of drugs in Europe, has experienced an unprecedented increase in drug trafficking, which brings with it a rise in social violence. Several police officers, who have faced extraordinary danger in recent months, have told the press that they are prepared to stop ‘one or two boats’ a night, but that they actually see ‘up to 15’.

In view of this:

1. What measures is the Commission taking, as part of the EU Drugs Strategy, to reduce drug trafficking via the River Guadalquivir?
2. Has the Spanish Government informed it about this situation? Has it asked for any special support to tackle this extraordinary threat?

Submitted: 15.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(16 April 2025)**

The Commission is in regular contact with the Spanish authorities and is aware of the efforts of authorities on the ground to tackle drug trafficking, including on the phenomenon of increasing use of go-fast vessels to smuggle drugs in the Guadalquivir Region.

The Commission has already mobilised the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre — Narcotics ⁽¹⁾ to further support Member States in tackling drug trafficking on the sea, including via go-fast vessels.

Moreover, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, Europol, is in close cooperation with the Spanish authorities in their operations against drug trafficking groups ⁽²⁾.

In addition, EU funding supports projects led by the Spanish authorities to tackle drug trafficking across the Atlantic and to disrupt criminal groups operating in Southern Spain ⁽³⁾.

To reinforce the fight against drug trafficking, in 2023 the Commission adopted an EU roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime ⁽⁴⁾ which sets out actions to improve cross-border cooperation against drug trafficking.

The Commission will put forward a new European Internal Security Strategy to better counter security threats, including by strengthening Europol’s operational capacity further and by revising the rules on organised crime.

A targeted action plan against drug trafficking is also in preparation.

⁽¹⁾ Funded by the Internal Security Funds (ISF) — Spain is a Member of the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre — Narcotics (MAOC-N).

⁽²⁾ The latest one in January leading to the seizure of 7 tonnes of cocaine and the arrest of 22 suspects, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/no-stone-left-unturned-72-tonnes-of-cocaine-and-eur-6-million-seized-in-large-drug-sting>

⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-funded-project-helps-reduce-flow-international-drugs-2024-07-25_en

and

<https://fondoseuropeosparaseguridad.interior.gob.es/es/detalle/proyecto/Equipo-Operativo-Europeo-EOT/>

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2023) 641 final.