

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000288/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe), Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe)
(23 January 2025)**

Subject: Managing the influx of migration to the Canary Islands

In 2024, a total of 46 843 migrants landed in the Canary Islands, up 17.4% from 2023. This situation highlights the limitations of the migration policies and external border controls in the European Union. Ángel Víctor Torres, Spain's Minister for Territorial Policy, has admitted that this wave of migration is overloading the reception and accommodation facilities. Faced with such a high number of arrivals, the local authorities even stated that they were no longer able to look after unaccompanied migrant children.

Meanwhile, Pedro Sánchez's Socialist Government has adopted a reform aimed at regularising 300 000 illegal immigrants per year. This measure will merely serve to encourage potential immigrants, allow the smuggling networks to grow even stronger and put more human lives at risk.

1. What additional resources will Frontex be given to combat smuggling networks?
2. Does the Commission intend to strengthen the readmission agreements with the countries of origin to facilitate returns and deter illegal departures?

Submitted: 23.1.2025

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

In 2025, the EU's contribution to Frontex's budget amounts to approximately EUR 1 billion. This provides Frontex with sufficient resources to fulfil its role in combatting cross-border crime, in line with its mandate.

Return and readmission are important components of cooperation of the EU and its Member States with partner countries. Under international customary law, all States are obliged to readmit their own nationals.

To implement this obligation, the Commission continually engages with partner countries of origin and transit both to improve returns and to prevent irregular arrivals.

This cooperation can take the form of readmission agreements or arrangements, or dedicated provisions in broader agreements such as the Samoa Agreement ⁽¹⁾; Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships, like the one concluded with Morocco ⁽²⁾; EU support for the voluntary return of sub-Saharan migrants from several transit countries; or comprehensive migration partnerships, like the one concluded with Mauritania in March 2024 ⁽³⁾.

These initiatives complement the ones carried out on a bilateral basis by Member States.

⁽¹⁾ Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part. OJ L 2023/2862, 28.12.2023, p. 1-172.

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-and-morocco-launch-renewed-partnership-migration-and-tackling-human-smuggling-2022-07-08_en

⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/eu-mauritania-joint-declaration_en