

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001238/25
to the Commission
Tomas Tobé (PPE), Lena Düpont (PPE)
(25 March 2025)**

Subject: EU support for Spanish regions overwhelmed by high migratory pressure

The migratory pressure on Spain remains high and several regions are reportedly overwhelmed ⁽¹⁾. Last year, the Canary Islands saw an 18% increase in arrivals to almost 47 000, the highest figure since Frontex began collecting data ⁽²⁾. The Canary Islands received 73.22% of the total irregular arrivals to Spain ⁽³⁾. Furthermore, nearly 6 000 migrants arrived in the Balearic Islands during 2024, almost three times the number compared with the previous year ⁽⁴⁾. The situation is alarming, with several regions lacking the necessary support from the national government to properly manage it.

In September last year, it was reported that Frontex stood ready to offer support to Spain in managing the situation in the Canary Islands, should the government request it. However, it is not clear what the current situation is with regard to the several regions in Spain facing record levels of migratory pressure.

1. What is needed to step up EU support for these regions and which specific EU measures could be considered?
2. Which specific measures require a prior request from Spanish authorities?

Submitted: 25.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(1 July 2025)**

The Commission is aware of the migratory challenges faced by Spain and follows the situation closely.

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the EU Agency for Asylum adopted operational plans to support Spain in migration management.

Spain benefits from various EU funds for asylum and migration and border management, including the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) ⁽¹⁾, the Border Management and Visa Fund (BMVI) ⁽²⁾ and the Next Generation EU funds.

In recent years, the Commission allocated to Spain funding under the AMIF and BMVI as emergency assistance specifically to address the situation of the Canary Islands (EUR 52.3 million for the financial programming period 2021-2027).

In addition, the Commission allocated ⁽³⁾ to the Member States additional resources to implement the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽⁴⁾. Also, these resources can be used by regional authorities in accordance with the rules set at national level.

Furthermore, both national and regional authorities can allocate resources from the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the European Regional Development Fund for migrant integration.

ESF+ will invest over EUR 142 million in Spain from 2021 to 2027 to support the socioeconomic integration of migrants, including EUR 2.4 million in the Balearic Islands, EUR 5 million for family-based care of unaccompanied minors and EUR 15 million to improve employment opportunities for vulnerable groups in the Canary Islands.

The Interreg Madeira-Azores-Canary Islands Cooperation Programme 2021-2027 ⁽⁵⁾ supports cross-border cooperation to tackle migration challenges.

¹ <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/62050/spain-more-migrant-arrivals-regions-overwhelmed>.

² <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/irregular-border-crossings-into-eu-drop-sharply-in-2024-oqpweX>.

³ <https://www.rtve.es/noticias/20250102/2024-roza-record-llegadas-irregulares-63970-migrantes-ano/16393412.shtml>.

⁴ <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/62050/spain-more-migrant-arrivals-regions-overwhelmed#:~:text=Nearly%206%2C000%20migrants%20arrived%20in,compared%20with%20%2C278>.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund the instrument for financial support of the Border Management and Visa Policy.

⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-provides-additional-eur-3-billion-support-migration-and-asylum-management-2025-05-12_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.

⁽⁵⁾ The cooperation area is comprised of three outermost regions — the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands and seven third countries — Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal and São Tomé and Príncipe.