

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002045/26
to the Commission
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(18 May 2026)

Subject: Mass regularisation of migrants in Spain and implications for the Schengen area and the internal security of the EU

According to recent reports, Spain is putting forward measures to regularise up to 500,000 migrants by granting them legal residency status and access to the labour market ⁽¹⁾. Since beneficiaries are being granted residency in a Member State within the Schengen area, this development is likely to have a wider impact on secondary movement and on the internal security of the Union. The Schengen area functions based on mutual trust and the uniform application of asylum and migration rules, in particular Directive 2011/95/EU (Qualification Directive), which lays down common criteria for granting international protection ⁽²⁾. Significant variations in national policies may put uneven pressure on Member States and affect the system's cohesion.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Are there indications that such practices affect internal security or the balance between Member States?
2. Does the Commission intend to ask Spain for specific information on identity, security and public order checks prior to permits being granted, as well as on the monitoring or return to Spain of beneficiaries who may move illegally to other Member States?

Submitted: 18.5.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(6 August 2026)

The Commission refers to its replies to the following parliamentary questions: E-000366/2026 ⁽¹⁾, E-000405/2026 ⁽²⁾, E-000522/2026 ⁽³⁾ and P-001628/2026 ⁽⁴⁾.

When issuing a residence permit, national authorities are responsible for carrying out an individual assessment of any potential security risks. This include, for example, consulting the Schengen Information System (SIS) to verify whether a person is subject to an alert ⁽⁵⁾.

In addition, since 2023, persons subject to a return decision in a Member State should also be subject to a return alert in SIS ⁽⁶⁾. In such cases, the SIS can help monitor persons subject to a return decision and moving to another Member State.

A national residence permit issued by a Member State does not give authorisation to settle freely around the EU, but only to live and work in the Member State that issued it. If a person holding a national residence permit is found to be illegally staying in another Member State, or if that person applies for asylum in another Member State, that person must go back to the Member State that issued the residence permit. National authorities must act in a spirit of sincere cooperation for this to happen swiftly.

As regards the requirement for Spain to provide specific information on identity, security and public order checks carried out prior to the granting of residence permits, there is no EU legal instrument imposing such an obligation. Nevertheless, the new Visa Information System (VIS), once launched, will enable Schengen States to exchange information not only on short-stay visas, but also on long-stay visas and residence permits.

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/ec1b8c64fb89b348ee4b394b55a94cbe>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0095>

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000366-ASW_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000405-ASW_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000522-ASW_EN.html.

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2026-001628-ASW_EN.html.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1860 : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1860/oj/eng>.

⁽⁶⁾ Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1860: see link under footnote 5.