

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002381/26
to the Commission
Christine Anderson (ESN)
(10 June 2026)

Subject: Migration via the Algeria-Balearic Islands route I

According to recent media reports, the number of illegal migrants arriving on the Balearic Islands from Algeria has increased significantly. Several boats carrying dozens of migrants have reportedly reached Mallorca and Formentera within a short period of time, adding to a broader rise in arrivals via this route.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the current scale and development of the Algeria-Balearic Islands migration route, including the nationalities of those arriving and the risks posed to the EU's external borders?
2. What operational activities is Frontex currently carrying out in relation to this route, and what support is being provided to Spain regarding border surveillance, registration procedures and return operations?
3. How many persons arriving via this route have, to the Commission's knowledge, been effectively returned to Algeria or other countries of origin or transit during the last three years?

Submitted: 10.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(27 July 2026)

According to the data collected by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) ⁽¹⁾, illegal border crossings (IBCs) to Spain along the Western Mediterranean and the Atlantic routes combined decreased in the first four months of 2026 (-45%, 7 726) compared to the same period in 2025.

Along the Western Mediterranean route alone, IBCs increased between January and April 2026 (+57%, 5 394) compared to the same period in 2025.

The main nationalities along the Western Mediterranean route in the first four months of 2026 were Algerians, Moroccans, Sudanese, Malians and Guineans.

Frontex is supporting Spain and other Member States in the region through operational activities at sea, including maritime surveillance, pre-frontier aerial surveillance and at key ports of entry.

Frontex currently deploys around 200 standing corps officers to support the Spanish authorities, with the majority stationed along Spain's Mediterranean coast.

The EU also engages with Algeria on migration governance, protection of migrants and refugees, and capacity-building, notably through the regional programmes such as Himaya and the Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa.

Available statistics on returns are not disaggregated by migration route of arrival. According to Eurostat data ⁽²⁾, in the past three years, 6 105 (2024), 5 705 (2025) and 1 545 (2026) third-country nationals having received an order to leave have been returned by Spain. At EU level, 3 590 (2024), 2 695 (2025), and 575 (2026) Algerian nationals were returned to Algeria.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/what-we-do/monitoring-and-risk-analysis/migratory-map/>.

⁽²⁾ The data can be disaggregated by nationality: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_eirtn/default/table?lang=en&category=migr_man.migr_eil.