

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002403/26
to the Commission
Alvise Pérez (NI)
(10 June 2026)**

Subject: Mass regularisation in Spain versus the Nordic model of migration control and effective returns

While several Member States are tightening their migration policies in response to integration problems, pressure on public services and difficulties in coexistence, the Spanish Government has approved an extraordinary regularisation scheme for undocumented migrants. The measure acts as an incentive for further illegal arrivals, undermines the credibility of European return rules, and shifts additional costs onto housing, healthcare, education, social welfare and the labour market.

Sweden, after years of generous reception policies, has opted to require longer residence, self-sufficiency, good conduct and knowledge of the language and society in order to gain citizenship. Spain, by contrast, appears to be moving towards a model of mass regularisation without a transparent European assessment of its impact on Schengen, genuine integration and the sustainability of the welfare state.

The EU cannot call for border control and effective returns while tolerating national decisions which, in practice, reward illegal entry and generate pull effects across the entire common area.

1. Has the Commission assessed the impact of Spain's extraordinary regularisation on Schengen and on returns, and whether it is consistent with the European Pact on Migration and Asylum?
2. Will the Commission request data from Spain on costs, actual labour market integration, access to benefits and the background of the beneficiaries?
3. Does the Commission consider this type of mass regularisation to be compatible with a credible European policy on illegal migration?

Submitted: 10.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2026)**

The Commission refers to its replies to the Questions: E-000366/26 ⁽¹⁾; E-000405/26 ⁽²⁾; E-000522/26 ⁽³⁾; and E-001628/26 ⁽⁴⁾.

The Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽⁵⁾ provides a comprehensive framework based on responsibility, solidarity and effective migration management.

Its objectives include reducing irregular migration, improving returns for those with no right to stay, and ensuring legal certainty and dignity for persons legally residing in the EU.

The Commission will continue to work closely with all Member States, including Spain, to ensure a coherent European approach to migration, including effective implementation of the Pact and of the EU rules on return, asylum and border management.

According to Article 6(2) of the Return Directive ⁽⁶⁾, if a third-country national is illegally staying in one Member State but has a legal right to stay in another Member State, that person must first be required to immediately go to the Member State where they have a legal right to stay.

If the person does not comply, or if they pose a security risk, the Member State where the person is illegally staying can return them to a third country.

The Return Regulation ⁽⁷⁾ will reinforce cooperation between Member States to ensure that the third-country national is promptly returned to the Member State where they have a legal right to stay.

⁽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⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52020DC0609>.

⁽⁶⁾ Directive 2008/115/EC on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals, OJ L 348, pp. 98-107: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/115/oj/eng>.

⁽⁷⁾ Council and Parliament reach deal on returns of illegally staying third-country nationals — Consilium: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/06/01/council-and-parliament-reach-deal-on-returns-of-illegally-staying-third-country-nationals/>.

As regards data on costs, labour market integration and access to benefits, there is no obligation on Member state to collect and share those data as these matters remain of exclusive national competence.

On the exchange of information on holders of residence permits, the new Visa Information System (VIS) ⁽⁶⁾, once launched, will allow Schengen States to exchange information not only on short-stay visas, but also on long-stay visas and residence permits.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 248, 13.7.2021, pp. 11-87: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1134/oj/eng>.