

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003182/26
to the Commission
Mary Khan (ESN)
(31 July 2026)**

Subject: Repeated mass illegal crossings into Ceuta

Recent reports indicate that thousands of illegal migrants have reached the Spanish exclave of Ceuta in recent days, with a majority reportedly swimming from Moroccan beaches into this territory ⁽¹⁾. Far from being an isolated incident, this is just the latest in a series of major migration crises affecting Ceuta in recent years.

These repeated incidents call into question the effectiveness of the EU's migration cooperation with Morocco, which has received hundreds of millions of euro through EU funding for migration management, border control and the fight against migrant smuggling.

1. In the light of these repeated mass illegal crossings, does the Commission consider that Morocco is fulfilling its commitments to prevent and significantly reduce illegal departures from its territory and to combat migrant smuggling?
2. Will the Commission make future financial assistance conditional upon Morocco delivering measurable reductions in illegal departures towards the EU?
3. What specific measures will the Commission take to strengthen the external border in Ceuta?

Submitted: 31.7.2026

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

The EU's new approach to migration and asylum is delivering results, leading to a sustained drop in illegal arrivals ⁽¹⁾: illegal border crossings in 2025 were under half the total recorded in 2023 and at the lowest level since 2021.

Morocco is an important partner, notably on migration and border management. EU financial support to Morocco aims to strengthen border management and the capacity to counter migrant smuggling.

This cooperation has delivered tangible results with a significant reduction in illegal arrivals over the years. The EU funding is conditional and consistently monitored through robust accountability mechanisms, including regular reporting, programme evaluations, verification missions and indicators linked to disbursement.

The Commission is discussing with the Moroccan authorities how to further develop cooperation on migration, in particular on return and readmission, also as part of the negotiations of a strategic and comprehensive partnership.

The Commission is committed to working closely with Member States to further strengthen external borders. Upon Member States' request, the EU can provide financial and technical assistance, as well as operational support, including deployments of personnel and equipment, notably through European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

Work is currently ongoing on a proposal to strengthen the mandate of Frontex, as announced in the political guidelines of the President of the Commission.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-migrants-cross-into-spains-ceuta-foot-efe-reports-2026-07-30/>.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2026) 45 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0045>.