

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003200/26
to the Commission
Geadis Geadí (ECR)
(4 August 2026)**

Subject: Mass illegal entry of around 49 000 migrants into Ceuta

According to estimates from the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, around 49 000 irregular immigrants illegally crossed from Morocco into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta within 24 hours. This was a massive violation of an EU external border and a direct provocation challenging the integrity of the Schengen area. The incident raises serious questions about the effectiveness of Spain's border control policy, the operational readiness of the Commission and Frontex and the EU's ability to address the instrumentalisation of migration as a means of applying political pressure.

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

1. Does it consider that the mass illegal entry of around 49 000 irregular immigrants into Ceuta constitutes a serious failure to protect the EU's external border?
2. Will it assess Morocco's role in the incident, as a matter of urgency, and consider whether funding should be made strictly conditional on the country's effective cooperation in preventing illegal departures and accepting readmissions?
3. If Spain cannot or is not willing to guarantee effective control of the EU's external borders, will the Commission consider all available legal consequences, including measures such as Spain's exit from Schengen?

Submitted: 4.8.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(21 October 2026)**

Spain continues to contribute effectively to the control of the EU's external borders, as confirmed by the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism and Ceuta is subject to a specific Schengen regime.

The protection of the external borders is a shared responsibility between the Union and its Member States. Only through cooperation can the integrity and security of the Schengen area be preserved.

The Commission has awarded Spain emergency funding, to cover support to returns and to border management among other priorities, and the EU agencies will provide additional operational assistance.

Morocco is a strategic partner of the EU, including on migration management. Cooperation and EU-funded programmes with Morocco have delivered results: Unauthorised border crossings along the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic route combined decreased by 42% in 2025 compared to 2024, with a further decrease of 34% in the first six months of 2026.

The Commission welcomes the close cooperation between Spain and Morocco to respond to the situation in Ceuta and ensure the swift return of those who do not have the right to remain. The framework established by the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽¹⁾ offers the instruments to do so.

EU cooperation programmes are already subject to robust accountability mechanisms, including regular reporting, periodic programme evaluations, on-the-spot verification missions and indicators tied to disbursement in the case of budget support.

⁽¹⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en.