EN
E-003260/2026
Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.10.2026)

The Commission regularly monitors the Western Mediterranean route, including illegal arrivals to Ceuta and Melilla, through the Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint Network[1]. The Blueprint Network and EUROSUR[2] rely on timely information-sharing by Member States, in line with their responsibilities[3]. Neither the Commission nor the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) had information on online mobilisation or increasing migratory pressure around Ceuta that could result in the arrivals on 30 and 31 July 2026.

The Commission held a Blueprint Network meeting on 31 July 2026 to exchange information between Member States and EU agencies, followed by meetings on 14 August, 1, 15 and 22 September 2026. The Council's Integrated Political Crisis Response mechanism held a roundtable on 1 August 2026, followed by update sessions on 14 and 27 August 2026. Under the Code of Conduct on Disinformation[4], Meta, TikTok and fact-checkers signatories (EDMO, EFCSN)[5] agreed to create an ad hoc voluntary mechanism to combat harmful disinformation related to potential illegal crossings in Ceuta and shared regular updates.

The Commission presented a five-point plan to prevent, anticipate and respond to sudden, mass illegal arrivals[6], including improved monitoring, situational awareness and early warning. The upcoming recast of the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation[7] will also address these issues. Under the European Democracy Shield[8], EDMO will strengthen its crisis monitoring capacity. Signatories of the Code of Conduct on Disinformation had agreed, before the Ceuta crisis, to develop a Rapid Response System for Crisis Situations, building on the framework used for the Rapid Response System for Member States' elections.

---

[1] The Blueprint Network meets weekly, and ad hoc in case of significant migratory events, to exchange up-to date information.
[2] EUROSUR is the integrated framework for the information exchange and operational cooperation between Member States and Frontex on border management-related issues. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1896/oj/eng.
[3] See Commission Recommendation of 23.9.2020 on an EU mechanism for Preparedness and Management of Crises related to Migration, recitals 5, 8 and 16.
[4] http://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation.
[5] The European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) brings together independent fact-checkers, academic researchers and other stakeholders to tackle online disinformation. The European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN) is an association of fact-checking organisations committed to common standards of independence, transparency and journalistic quality.
[6] http://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/5-point-plan-prevent-anticipate-and-respond-sudden-mass-illegal-arrivals_en.
[7] Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624, OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, pp. 1–131. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1896/oj/eng.
[8] https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-democracy-shield-documents_en.