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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.10.2026)

The Commission takes note of the concerns raised regarding arrivals and crime on the Spanish coast. Under Articles 77 to 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹ and the Schengen Borders Code², responsibility for day-to-day management and control of external borders lies with Member States, while the EU framework establishes common standards and provides mechanisms for operational and financial support.

Member States are required to comply with these obligations under the relevant EU rules. In this context, periodic Schengen evaluations and European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) vulnerability assessments for Spain have not identified deficiencies indicating non-compliance.

The Commission considers that any need to reinforce national capacities, including maritime surveillance assets, should be assessed in light of migratory pressure, cross-border crime and the need to safeguard integrity and security of the Schengen area.

The EU already supports Member States, including Spain, through Frontex joint operations and the European Border Surveillance System³ integrated framework, as well as through cooperation with EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation to combat smuggling and trafficking networks. This support also includes the implementation of the EU Action Plan Against Drug Trafficking⁴ which contains a dedicated action to tackle the criminal use of go-fast vessels and dedicated EU funding. Cooperation with North African partners, including Algeria, also forms part of a broader EU external action to address illegal migration.

¹ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union of 13 December 2007 — consolidated version, OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 47-360: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A12016ME%2FTXT>.

² Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders, OJ L 077, 23.3.2016, p. 1: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/399/oj/eng>.

³ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/eurosur_en.

⁴ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/eu-action-plan-against-drug-trafficking_en.