

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002749/26
to the Commission
Marieke Ehlers (Pfe)
(2 July 2026)**

Subject: EIB financing for infrastructure in Morocco and lack of cooperation on repatriation

On X, the European Investment Bank (EIB) proudly announced new financing for the tram system in Rabat. At the same time, Morocco is hindering the repatriation of its own nationals illegally staying in the EU.

In light of the above,

1. Has the Commission agreed to this infrastructure financing in accordance with Article 19 of the EIB Statute, and what specific EU interests take precedence in this instance over enforcing Morocco's cooperation on the return of illegal migrants?
2. Can the Commission guarantee that such loans will no longer be possible under the strict conditions set out in the proposed Return Regulation (in particular Article 37a) once it has entered into force?
3. Is the Commission prepared to provide a precise overview of the total annual EU financial flows (grants, EIB loans and guarantees) to Morocco, and to freeze these immediately until the country cooperates in the readmission of its nationals?

Submitted: 2.7.2026

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(19 August 2026)**

The Commission recalls that Article 19 of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Statute requires that projects financed by the EIB be consistent with EU objectives.

In the case of the project referred to by the Honourable Member, the Commission agreed to this infrastructure financing in accordance with Article 19 as connectivity is considered one of the EU's objectives in Morocco.

EU relations with Morocco encompass a broad range of issues, including security, trade, investment, economic cooperation and migration.

Cooperation on migration is itself wide-ranging, covering areas such as border management, labour mobility, protection of migrants and refugees, return and readmission, and is supported by a comprehensive framework of political dialogue and financial cooperation.

The importance of EU-Morocco relations became again apparent in the immediate response to the Ceuta migration crisis of 29 and 30 July 2026.

After as many as 72 000 irregular migrants swam across the sea border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in the space of little more than 24 hours, the Kingdom facilitated their immediate return. By 4 August 2026, the vast majority had already been returned.

The depth and breadth of EU-Morocco relations require a balanced and comprehensive approach that takes account of the full spectrum of EU interests, including on return and readmission.

In this context, the forthcoming Return Regulation ⁽¹⁾ reinforces the importance of the external dimension of EU return policy by providing a framework for enhanced cooperation with third countries ensuring that the external dimension of return policy forms an integral part of the comprehensive approach to migration management. Any future EIB financing will continue to be examined in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

The Commission is committed to transparency and reporting in accordance with the applicable rules governing the EU budget, external action instruments, guarantees and cooperation with the EIB and other implementing partners.

Information on EU funding is made available through the relevant budgetary, financial and reporting instruments and the Annual report on the implementation of the EU's external action instruments ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202401349.

⁽²⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/publications-library/2025-annual-report-implementation-european-unions-external-action-instruments-2024_en.

The Commission will continue to engage with Morocco on readmission and broader migration cooperation, while ensuring that EU action remains consistent with EU law, the EU's external policy objectives and the requirements attached to the relevant financial instruments.
