

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.9.2026)

The Commission is in close and regular contact with both Spanish and Italian authorities, at various levels. In these contacts, the Commission stresses the progress made in resolving fully the situation in Ceuta and that no onwards movements to the EU were recorded to date. The Commission maintains the importance of mutual trust among Member States in light of these events. Both Member States confirmed that the reintroduction of internal border control is temporary.

Article 25a(1) of the Schengen Borders Code¹ allows Member States to exceptionally and temporarily reintroduce internal border controls in an unforeseeable event, to address serious threats to public order or national security. The Commission received Italy's notification of temporary reintroduction of internal border control on 31 July 2026. As the reintroduction of internal border control is a measure of last resort, the Commission continues to support Member States to make full use of the available alternative measures² as well as regional cooperation to ensure the proper functioning of the Schengen area.

The Commission continues to monitor the situation and to engage with the Member States concerned and promotes coordinated responses which protect the integrity of the Schengen area. All parties share a collective responsibility to protect the integrity of the Schengen area. Responses therefore need to remain coordinated, proportionate and rooted in the facts on the ground.

¹ 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 (Schengen Borders Code). OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1-52.

² Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 of 23 November 2023 on cooperation between the Member States with regard to serious threats to internal security and public policy in the area without internal border controls. OJ L, 17.1.2024.