

**Question for written answer E-006440/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Operation Straits Crossing

This being the holiday period, large numbers of the EU public are crossing the Mediterranean from various Spanish ports. Figures published for the 2014 Operation Straits Crossing by the Directorate-General for Civil Defence and Emergencies at the Spanish Ministry of the Interior show that, by 11 August 2014, 1 165 072 people had crossed the Straits. Returnees numbered 254 864, with the remainder expected to return by the end of the summer holidays.

While a significant number of these people are resident in Spain, the majority come from other EU countries. The costs generated by Operation Straits Crossing are high, both for the Spanish Government (in ports that are on the EU's external borders) and for the municipalities near the ports with the greatest volume of passenger and vehicle traffic.

1. Cooperation in monitoring and controlling traffic flows in the EU is needed for this traffic to be managed efficiently. What are the Commission's plans for procedures to organise said cooperation?
2. Does the Commission have plans for a fund to help the bodies concerned, and particularly those at local level, meet the additional costs generated by Operation Straits Crossing?