

EN  
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Answer given by Mr Avramopoulos  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(12.10.2018)

The Commission fully supports the efforts of Spain to develop an effective response to the increased number of arrivals in the past months and to protect the external border of the European Union. This support was clearly reiterated in meetings between the Commission and Spanish Government in early August 2018<sup>1</sup>.

The EU already supports Spain in its efforts to manage the migratory flows with allocations through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF).

EUR 422 million have been allocated to Spain to date through the AMIF National Programme in support of migration management, including measures for asylum, resettlement and relocation, legal migration and integration of third-country nationals and return. In addition, EUR 208 million have been allocated under the National Programme ISF, for measures covering border management, visa policy and security actions.

Furthermore, since June 2018 in the context of the current migration flows to Spain, the Commission awarded it over EUR 28.50 million of emergency assistance, in view of reinforcing the capacities of staff working in reception and detention centres, as well as ensuring the necessary supply of goods and services for their residents.

More specifically as regards actions to combat smuggling, EUR 115 million have been allocated to Spain under ISF-Borders, part of which is used to implement actions to address migrant smuggling. The European Migrant Smuggling Centre at Europol continues to support Spanish investigations into migrant smuggling criminal groups, exemplified recently by the arrest of 7 individuals on 7 August 2018, suspected of having smuggled almost 300 migrants from French-speaking African countries to Northern Spain, and from there on to France<sup>2</sup>.

EU support also includes a EUR 55 million migration and border management project approved on 6 July 2018 for Morocco and Tunisia under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-18-4822\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-4822_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/7-arrested-in-spain-for-smuggling-some-300-migrants-to-france>