

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2048/04  
by Fernando Fernández Martín (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Illegal immigration in the outermost regions

In its third report on economic and social cohesion, the Commission introduced a wider neighbourhood action plan for the outermost regions of the EU in order to facilitate the regional integration of these European regions in their respective geographical environments through cooperation with their neighbouring countries. Within the framework of transnational and cross-border cooperation, this action, developed in the Communication from the Commission 'A stronger partnership for the outermost regions' (COM (2004) 343) proposes to facilitate the movement of nationals whose papers are in order of non-member countries neighbouring the outermost regions as a means of integrating them economically into their area, and to enable their neighbours to secure maximum advantage for their development from this cooperation. The Commission specified that those exchanges would also have to take account of the fight against illegal immigration.

Given the extremely serious nature of the illegal migration originating in the outermost regions in general and in the Canary Isles in particular, what measures does the Commission plan to develop in these regions to reinforce and protect their borders and thus have greater success in the fight against such migration?