

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6477/08
by Glenn Bedingfield (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Illegal immigration

In Malta, close to 2600 illegal immigrants have arrived by sea from North Africa in the first nine months of 2008, compared to 1800 last year.

Nearly 30 000 boat people arrived on Italian shores by the end of October, compared to 19 900 in the full year 2007. In Greece 15 000 reached the mainland or islands between January and July compared to 19 900 in the whole of 2007.

Adding to this, Spain and the Canary Islands have had 10 700 people arriving by sea from January to the end of October compared to 18 000 in the whole of 2007.

Considering the increased illegal immigration in the Mediterranean:

1. what is the opinion of the Commission regarding Frontex activities this year in the Mediterranean region, and
2. what is the opinion of the Commission on the setting up of a Frontex office in the Mediterranean to effectively increase the efficient coordination of the Agency's activities in the region?