

**Question for written answer E-000422/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE) and Franziska Keller (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: The Crisis and the Immigration Act in Spain

On 15 January, the police detained Aziz Tarzout, an activist from the 'Mortgage Victims Platform', who has lived in Girona for nine years, in order to deport him immediately from Spain.

The deportation order was issued because his residency permit had expired. Namely, because of the crisis, Aziz could not find a job and fell into a legal vacuum which made him an irregular migrant after nine years in Spain. Regardless of his social and cultural ties, Aziz was detained for deportation<sup>1</sup>.

This is how the Immigration Act, which transposes the Return Directive, criminalises poor migrants who are victims of the recession, who were welcomed when more cheap labour was needed in Europe.

Do you believe that the Spanish Immigration Act correctly transposes the aims of the Return Directive? Do you believe that EU migration policies should be open, regardless of nationality, wealth and income, and that all people should be able to request a residency permit and nationality? Do you believe that once a permit is granted, it cannot be withdrawn exclusively due to not having an employment contract or economic resources, as this discriminates migrants and qualifies them exclusively as labour and not as people with social ties and human rights?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lavanguardia.com/20140116/54399172995/el-incierto-futuro-de-aziz-en-girona.html>