

**Question for written answer E-004675/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

Subject: 'Illegal' expulsions in Melilla and the role of Frontex

On 1 April 2014 the Spanish Government admitted that members of the auxiliary armed forces of the Kingdom of Morocco had entered the autonomous city of Melilla, i.e. Spanish territory, in order to help the Spanish security forces with the task of carrying out the 'illegal' expulsion of irregular migrants.

The Melilla-based NGO Prodein has done excellent work in compiling audiovisual material illustrating the methods employed by the Spanish security forces in dealing with irregular migrants at the border between Melilla and Morocco. This matter was raised in a parliamentary question as long ago as on 3 December 2013 and Commissioner Malmström stated in her answer that 'no substantiated information on the respect or not of these safeguards can be found in the media report', thus blithely feigning ignorance of an illegal practice which the Spanish Government has itself admitted to employing.

One key issue to be clarified now is whether the assistance provided by the EU agency Frontex includes training in how to carry out blatantly illegal expulsions of this kind in cooperation with members of the Moroccan auxiliary armed forces.

Is that in fact the case?

If not, what purpose do these training programmes, the cost of which is charged to the EU budget, serve if the security forces of the Member States merely act as they see fit and the Member States themselves make no effort to monitor how the training provided by Frontex is actually put into practice?

Do the rules governing operations and projects at maritime and land borders funded under Items A-300 and A-301 of the Frontex budget stipulate what methods the Spanish security forces may and may not employ? What steps are taken to ensure that this funding is provided in a manner consistent with national, EU and international rules on the treatment of irregular migrants at borders?

Does the Commission plan to initiate infringement proceedings against Spain in response to the clear breaches of EU law which the methods used to expel irregular migrants and the work of Frontex constitute?