

**Question for written answer E-004677/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Publication of the 2013 report on immigrant detention centres

This month, two Spanish NGOs whose work focuses on supporting migrants, 'Fundación San Juan del Castillo Pueblos Unidos' and 'Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes de España', published the 2013 report on immigrant detention centres (CIEs) entitled 'Criminalizados, Internados, Expulsados', which describes the situation facing people held in the immigrant detention centre in Madrid.

These NGOs have been monitoring the circumstances in which migrants are held in the Madrid immigrant detention centre since 2010. The report presents a detailed study of the situation facing these people and the behaviour of the authorities involved in handling their cases.

The report condemns the systematic use of detention by the Spanish police and the internment of immigrants. The misuse of internment stems from the fact that no account is taken of the particular circumstances in each case, with the result that anybody whose papers are not in order is held in an immigrant detention centre, as are people who have applied for a residence permit and whose application is being processed. This is a clear example of people being deprived of their legal rights. The report highlights the mechanistic and in some cases repeated use of detention on the grounds that migrants allegedly have no ties in the country, even though the people concerned are not given any opportunity to prove otherwise. The detention of migrants should be a measure of last resort for the competent authority. This report shows that the Spanish police systematically detains all the irregular immigrants it finds in the course of its routine activities or various sweeps.

1. Is the Commission aware of the above 2013 report on immigration detention centres?
2. Will the Commission urge the Spanish government properly to implement Directive 2008/115/EC and respect human rights and international law in relation to the detention of migrants in Spain?
3. Will it call on Spain to draw up a regulation on the operation of immigrant detention centres to ensure that the relevant legislation is complied with?
4. Will it investigate the complaints published by these NGOs in order to verify that Spain is respecting this legislation?
5. Will it call on the Spanish government to take account of the recommendations contained in this report?