

**Question for written answer E-001333/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Morocco and management of illegal migration

The EU-Morocco negotiations on a readmission agreement started in the 2000s but have still not produced results. For domestic and foreign policy reasons, Morocco is not interested in signing an agreement with the EU.

A higher return rate of Moroccan citizens would result in a significant loss in terms of money transfers, which constitute an important source of revenue for the country. In 2017, the net transfer of funds from the EU to Morocco was EUR 3.3 billion. This amount was much higher than the EUR 189.5 million received by the country under the European Neighbourhood Instrument.¹ The massive repatriation of Moroccan citizens would also put pressure on the country's labour market. Even though Morocco refuses to sign an agreement, Morocco has received large sums for migration control and management

In 2018, more than 10 000 Moroccan citizens came to Europe and 40 000 migrants, mainly from sub-Saharan areas, moved through Morocco to Europe.²

1. How much money has Morocco received for the control and management of illegal migration?
2. What tangible measures has Morocco adopted to reduce the pressure on its sea borders?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of national bilateral agreements with Morocco?

¹ Kevin Kaiser, 'EU-Morocco negotiations on a readmission agreement: obstacles to a successful conclusion', EU Diplomacy Paper, College of Europe, 07/2019, (1–31), S. 9.

² Tasnim Abderrahim, 'A tale of two agreements: EU migration cooperation with Morocco and Tunis', 41 PapersIEMed., Mai 2019, (7–38), S. 29.