

**Question for written answer E-003640/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Guido Reil (ID)**

Subject: Regularisation of illegal migrants in Italy

In May 2020 Italy's Minister of Agriculture announced the regularisation of the status of some 200 000 illegal migrants working in the agriculture, fisheries and care sectors. Like Spain, Italy has already carried out several regularisations. The move was rejected by Germany and the Netherlands, among others, as this kind of measure creates a further incentive for illegal migration and leads to social migration to countries in Northern and Western Europe. Furthermore, measures such as this reward employers who employ illegal workers.

The Commission has stressed that such regularisations create incentives for illegal migration and that reducing illegal migration is a political priority at national and European level <sup>1</sup>. In 2017 the former Commission President said that illegal migrants should be sent back to their countries of origin and that the removal rate in the Member States should be increased.

1. How many illegal migrants have been regularised in this way?
2. Can regularised migrants travel throughout the EU without restriction under the current legislation?
3. Does the Commission share the view that this approach not only undermines the fight against illegal migration but in fact even promotes illegal migration?

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Study on the links between legal and illegal migration (COM(2004)0412)