

**Question for written answer E-005904/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Union strategy in response to the growing number of migrants disembarking in the Canary Islands

According to the fortnightly statistics published by the Spanish Ministry of the Interior regarding illegal migration, 8 102 migrants reached the Canary Islands by sea up to mid-October. This compares to 1 028 disembarking from dugouts and other makeshift craft at the same time last year. In other words, there has been a 688.1% surge in arrivals, leaving local authorities, welfare agencies, the forces of law and order and other organisations struggling to cope, with numbers expected to rise still further. In view of this:

1. Are plans afoot to deploy special Frontex resources in this outermost European region?
2. What overtures have been made to Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and the Gambia regarding migrant policy in response to the increasing numbers heading for the Canary Islands? What role should the latter play, given their position on the southern border of the European Union, to promote its relations with nearby countries in the context of future EU-Africa strategy?
3. What is the role of regions, especially border regions, in determining and implementing migration policy under the new migration pact?