

**Question for written answer E-000349/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jorge Buxadé Villalba (ECR)

Subject: Presence of Frontex and EASO in the Canary Islands

Spain is one of the European Union's border countries and as such continues to suffer the consequences of what seems to be a never-ending migration crisis. The Canary Islands in particular continue to suffer under the pressure of unprecedented levels of migration. Some 1 069 migrants arrived there in 28 small boats in the first 15 days of this year, 2021, which is a 234 % increase on the same period in 2020. It is worth remembering in that respect that the number of illegal migrants arriving in the Canary Islands in 2020 rose by around 900 % compared to 2019.

Some media outlets have reported that the Agency Frontex has increased the number of its staff in Gran Canaria and Tenerife from 7 to 28 to check this invasion. The presence of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has also been reported and it seems that Frontex will be working in conjunction with Interpol from the end of January.

1. Could the Commission provide the documents substantiating the missions of these agencies in the Canary Islands archipelago?
2. Given the current Spanish Government's demonstrable incompetence in crisis management, does the Commission believe enough is being done to defend the EU's external borders?
3. Is the Commission working on a plan that will put an end to the pull factor?