

**Question for written answer E-001530/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: Implications of the UK's immigration reform for the EU-UK Gibraltar deal

According to *The Times*, British Home Secretary Priti Patel has announced her intention to turn the colony of Gibraltar into a processing centre for asylum seekers.

According to the agreement in principle reached on 31 December 2020 between Spain and the United Kingdom, Gibraltar will be integrated into the Schengen area, allowing free movement between the colony and the rest of Spain. On the basis of this pre-agreement, the EU is required to negotiate a specific treaty with London on Gibraltar in the coming months.

Gibraltar has a population of approximately 33 000. According to the UK Government, the UK received 34 354 asylum applications between January and September 2019. Given the small size of the colony it is not difficult to imagine the consequences for Spain of the massive relocation of asylum seekers once Gibraltar has been integrated into the Schengen area of free movement.

In the light of this:

1. What is the Commission's take on the plans of the UK Government to turn Gibraltar into a processing centre for asylum seekers?
2. How would this change affect the Gibraltar-specific treaty to be negotiated between the Union and the United Kingdom?
3. How would it affect Gibraltar's integration into the Schengen area?