

**Question for written answer E-002659/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Morocco uses immigration management at the border with Ceuta as a form of diplomatic blackmail against Spain

On 17 and 18 May a serious immigration and border crisis erupted between Morocco and Spain in the Spanish city of Ceuta. The provision of humanitarian medical aid to a leader of the Polisario Front in Spain sparked a fresh diplomatic row, prompting the Moroccan authorities to allow more than 5 000 people, including almost 2 000 children, to illegally paddle to land owned by Spain from Moroccan territory¹.

Morocco is using the human tragedy of illegal immigration as yet another form of continuous diplomatic blackmail against an EU Member State.

The country is a key partner of the EU, with which it has an Association Agreement, and is also the largest recipient of financial support from the European Neighbourhood Policy. In addition, last December the Commission adopted new cooperation programmes with it, including one to strengthen the management of land and sea borders with funding of EUR 101.7 million.

In view of Morocco's repeated failure to meet the proposed objectives:

1. What measures will the Commission take in response to the constant challenges posed by Morocco concerning a Member State's immigration management?
2. Is the Commission considering revising or suspending the agreements and programmes signed by the EU with the Kingdom of Morocco?

¹ <https://elpais.com/espana/2021-05-17/un-millar-de-personas-llegan-a-nado-a-ceuta-en-plena-escalada-de-tension-diplomatica-con-marruecos.html>