1. The Commission deplores the loss of lives at the border with Melilla on 24 June 2022. The precise circumstances leading to these tragic events still have to be clarified and the Commission welcomes the fact that investigations have been launched for that purpose by Spain and Morocco, respectively. The Commission condemns any violent assault at the EU’s external borders and will continue supporting Spain and Morocco in managing their borders and preventing such events from occurring again. At the same time, the EU will ensure compliance with universal values and commitments under international law, notably the principle of non-refoulement and the obligation to respect the fundamental rights of the migrants.

2. Assisting those in need is one of the priorities of the EU migration policy and of EU support to Spain. According to Commission’s information, 134 of the migrants who crossed the border on 24 June 2022 are currently in Melilla migrant centre where Spanish authorities are providing them with humanitarian, medical and psychological support. Migrants also have access to legal assistance and may ask for international protection. The EU is currently supporting Melilla migrant centre with Asylum, Migration and Integration Funds.