The Commission deplores the tragic loss of life occurred on 24 June 2022 at the land border between Morocco and Spain and welcomes the launch of investigations.

The Commission is fully committed to promote human rights and democracy in all areas of EU external action, including in negotiations of international agreements. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum sets out the importance of ensuring respect for fundamental rights and provides with tools needed to prevent violence at external borders, including by preventing irregular migration and combating migrant smugglers. Under the proposed Screening Regulation, Member States will have to put in place an independent mechanism to monitor respect for fundamental rights. In October 2022, the Fundamental Rights Agency will issue guidance on establishing national independent mechanisms to monitor fundamental rights compliance at the EU’s external borders. The Commission will monitor systematically the implementation of existing and new rules, assess results and propose improvements through annual Migration Management Reports.

Legal migration is an essential part of the approach set out in the Pact. Talent Partnerships are a key element to promote it, for the benefit of the EU and partner countries, as is clear from the Skills and Talent Package launched on 27 April 2022. They will underpin a comprehensive policy framework and financial support to engage key partners. Developing legal pathways should also contribute to reducing irregular migration. The Commission identified Morocco as one of the priority countries with which to launch a Talent Partnership by the end of 2022, as part of a broader cooperation on migration.

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4 COM(2022) 657 final.