

EN

E-002426/2022

Answer given by Ms Johansson  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(16.9.2022)

1. The Commission supports Spain to address the challenges of border management, by providing operational and financial assistance. In 2014-2020, Spain benefited from EUR 260 million under Home Affairs Funds through the Internal Security Fund Borders and for the new Spanish Programme in negotiation, Spain is allocated EUR 322.9 million under the Border and Management Visa Instrument. The Commission provided EUR 123 million in emergency assistance to support Spain's migration management, including provision of humanitarian assistance to migrants reaching Ceuta and Melilla borders. For the period 2021-2027, emergency assistance under Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of EUR 14 million has been granted to Ceuta and the Commission is preparing a new EU assistance of EUR 9.8 million to keep reinforcing the reception system's capacity in Ceuta.
2. The Spanish government requested the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to carry out joint operations in Spain, in Western Mediterranean with Joint Operations Indalo<sup>1</sup> and Minerva<sup>2</sup>, and in the Canary Islands with Joint Operation Canary Islands<sup>3</sup>. On 30 June 2022, a Moroccan Delegation visited Frontex in view of increasing cooperation and discussing next steps towards the conclusion of a working arrangement. Cooperation between Frontex and a third country would require a status agreement concluded by the EU<sup>4</sup> if the deployment of border management teams with executive powers is envisaged or a working arrangement concluded by Frontex when is related to the operational cooperation management<sup>5</sup>.
3. The Spanish government has not communicated such plans to the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://frontex.europa.eu/we-support/main-operations/operations-minerva-indalo-spain/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/launch-of-operation-minerva-E1mfb5>

<sup>3</sup> On 4 July 2022, the Council authorised the opening of negotiations with Mauritania and Senegal on a European Border and Coast Guard Agency status agreement for operational cooperation, based on the Commission's proposal; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELLAR%3Ae3c0676f-fdc3-11ec-b94a-01aa75ed71a1>; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022D1168>

<sup>4</sup> Article 73(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.

<sup>5</sup> Article 73(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.