The Commission deplores the loss of life that occurred at the border with Melilla in June 2022 and condemns strongly any violence at the EU’s external border. The Commission welcomes the launch of investigations by Spanish authorities and of an information mission in Morocco to clarify the exact circumstances that led to these tragic events. All Member States must act in full compliance with EU and international law, notably the right to an effective access to asylum, the principle of non-refoulement and the obligation to respect the fundamental rights of migrants. The Commission intends to continue supporting migration governance and management in Morocco, as shown by the comprehensive support provided and the new operational anti-smuggling partnership between the Commission and Morocco signed on 8 July 2022, notably with actions aiming at ensuring that borders are managed in line with international human rights standards.

The Commission continues to oversee the implementation of the EU acquis on asylum and legal migration, including the equal treatment provisions for third country nationals, and to address migration in a holistic manner in line with EU human rights standards. In the legislative proposals of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission endeavour to strengthen the monitoring of the respect for fundamental rights, particularly in the context of migration.

As regards Ukrainians fleeing their country due to the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, the EU provided them with immediate protection after the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, which gave them access to housing, social welfare and medical care, to the labour market and to education.

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3 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32001L0055