Question for written answer E-001864/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Incentives for police to detain migrants in cross-border areas

This week the leadership of the Spanish National Police cancelled an order that was being drawn up by a commander at the Irún police station, in a cross-border area, that would have granted days off to officers who arrested the most migrants. The resulting scandal shone a light on the revelation by a former officer who told Basque television that the practice is common in the French police. The news comes on top of a number of other incidents in the same area, ranging from arbitrary closures of border crossing points to readmission processes in breach of the Schengen Borders Code. These issues have been raised in a number of parliamentary questions (E-003364/2022[1], E-005571/2021[2], E-003034/2019[3], E-002330/2019[4] and E-005496/2018[5]), which suggests that such malpractices persist despite the Commission announcing its intention to discuss the matter and take it up with with the authorities concerned.

In light of the above:

1.   Does the Commission have any information about these practices?

2.   Does the Commission consider that cross-border 'spillover' of such practices helps to solve the problems associated with irregular immigration?

3.   Will the Commission contact the competent authorities to find out about these practices, assess them and, if necessary, help stamp them out?

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[1]   https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-003364_EN.html
[2]   https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-005571_EN.html
[3]   https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-003034_EN.html.
[4]   https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-002330_EN.html
[5]   https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-005496_EN.html