

**Question for written answer E-002491/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Return to Senegal of 168 people rescued at sea by Spain

On Thursday, 24 August, the Spanish Guardia Civil patrol boat Río Tajo rescued 168 people from Senegal who had been adrift for six days. Spain requested Mauritania to open its port to receive the migrants and, since Mauritania refused that request, the Spanish Ministry of the Interior agreed with Senegal to return the 168 people. This collective *refoulement* under Spanish jurisdiction violates Articles 18 and 19 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, concerning the right to asylum and the prohibition of collective expulsions. The rescued persons must be cared for individually, with legal assistance and interpretation services being provided, which the patrol boat was not in a position to ensure.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. Has the Commission asked Spain for explanations as to why it failed to guarantee the right to asylum for the 168 people it rescued?
2. How does the Commission intend to respond to this violation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

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