

**Question for written answer E-000508/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Sharp rise in the arrival of immigrants in the Canary Islands

Frontex recently published its January 2024 report on illegal entries by immigrants into the EU and noted a sharp rise in entries via the Western Africa route. Illegal immigrants who take that route arrive in the Canary Islands (Spain).

It is surprising to see a leap in the numbers recorded: a 48% rise in illegal crossings on the December 2023 figures. The Canary Islands have become the main gateway for illegal immigrants to Europe without Pedro Sánchez's Socialist Government having protected Spain's and the EU's external borders properly.

1. What view does the Commission take of that spike?
2. Given that Frontex recognises that the Canary Islands are the main illegal immigration access route into Europe, what specific steps will the Commission take to stop illegal entries and mitigate the negative effects of the arrival of thousands of illegal immigrants into the Canary Islands?
3. With a view to making dangerous boat journeys unattractive, is the Commission considering entering into negotiations with Mauritania and/or Senegal to establish a regional disembarkation platform similar to the one negotiated between Italy and Albania?

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