

**Question for written answer E-006193/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Human rights violations in the Canary Islands

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), more than 13 800 people have reached the Canary Islands by boat in 2020, including 2 188 last weekend alone<sup>1</sup>. They are being held at a camp on the docks in Arguineguín. The Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid (CEAR)<sup>2</sup> and HRW have reported countless human rights violations: a repatriation process without guarantees, a lack of legal assistance and psychological care for migrants, insufficient health and hygiene measures during the pandemic, overcrowding and the denial of access to journalists. The Spanish minister of the interior has announced that Spain is to close the Arguineguín camp and move its inhabitants, with the EU's support, to an disused munitions warehouse<sup>3</sup>.

1. Is the Commission aware of the details of this new 'facility', conditions there, its capacity or when it will become operational? If so, does it endorse this decision?
2. Will the Commission take action in response to reports that journalists have been denied access or that people have been detained for longer than the 72 hours permitted under Spanish law?
3. Over and above ad hoc solutions, does the Commission intend to implement an emergency plan to ensure respect for the human rights of all persons in the Canary Islands, upholding the principle of non-refoulement and the fair distribution of persons between countries?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/11/spain-respect-rights-people-arriving-sea-canary-islands>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cear.es/indefension-juridica-migrantes-canarias/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://elpais.com/espana/2020-11-06/grande-marlaska-promete-cerrar-el-campamento-de-de-migrantes-de-arguineguin-en-las-proximas-semanas.html>