



European Parliament



**European Conservatives and Reformists Group
in the European Parliament**

*ECR Group
Brussels, 03 February 2026*

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Commissioner Brunner,

We are writing to you as Members of the European Parliament from the ECR Group to raise a matter with clear European and Schengen-wide implications. According to public announcements and widely reported plans, the Spanish Government intends to proceed with an extraordinary mass regularization of irregular migrants, presented as affecting around half a million people.

This measure undermines the credibility of EU migration control. In a few years (as little as five, or even two for certain nationalities), these 500,000 individuals will be eligible for Spanish—and thus European—citizenship. This will trigger a constant, unstoppable "drip" of movement across the continent, making Spain's lack of border rigor a permanent liability for every Member State.

Whatever the internal political debate in Spain, a measure of this scale cannot be treated as purely domestic. In a Schengen area without internal border controls, remember that decisions of this magnitude inevitably have spill-over effects on secondary movements, the credibility of return policies, and the leverage of the Union's common visa policy and third-country cooperation.

From the ECR perspective, repeated large-scale regularizations risk:

- weakening deterrence and creating strong pull factors,
- undermining trust among Member States on effective border and migration management,
- and making effective returns and conditional visa policy harder to deliver in practice.



European Parliament



**European Conservatives and Reformists Group
in the European Parliament**

*ECR Group
Brussels, 03 February 2026*

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Commission:

1. **Conduct and publish a formal assessment** of the likely Schengen impacts and operational consequences of a mass regularization of this scale, including on secondary movements, border pressure, enforcement capacity, and internal security screening.
2. **Clarify how such a measure aligns with EU law and the objectives of the EU's return and readmission policy**, and outline what safeguards are necessary to ensure that national regularizations do not undermine common European objectives.
3. **Strengthen conditionality and consequences for third-country non-cooperation** on readmission, using visa policy and other instruments more consistently, so that return decisions can be implemented effectively and credibly across the Union.
4. **Propose concrete measures to restore control**, including a stronger operational approach to returns, clearer benchmarks, and improved coordination among Member States to prevent unintended Schengen-wide effects.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and your services at the earliest convenience. The credibility of Schengen and public confidence in Europe's ability to manage migration depend on coherent, predictable, and enforceable policies.

Yours sincerely,

European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)
Members of the European Parliament