Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Solidarity with Ceuta, a test case for Europe

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Lord Michael GERMAN and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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Between 30 and 31 July 2026, the Spanish city of Ceuta experienced a new surge in irregular arrivals, with more than 72 000 people crossing by land and sea from Morocco. More than 100 people reportedly lost their lives during these perilous crossings. By 31 July, at least 90% of those who had crossed had returned to Morocco.

As of 5 September 2026, an estimated 5 000 to 10 000 people remain in Ceuta, including more than 1 000 children. The scale and speed of the arrivals have placed exceptional pressure on local reception capacities and created an urgent humanitarian situation. Many migrants, including children and other vulnerable persons, are living in precarious conditions. Access to screening and asylum procedures remains challenging, while growing social tensions are reported and incidents of violence against and between migrants have been alleged.

Spain and the authorities of Ceuta cannot be expected to address this situation alone. European States, and particularly EU member States, should demonstrate solidarity and provide practical support, while close and constructive co-operation with the Moroccan authorities remains essential.

All measures taken must uphold human rights, human dignity and the rule of law, contribute to de-escalating tensions and avoid any instrumentalisation of migration.

Particular attention should be paid to adequate reception and screening, protection of children and vulnerable persons, swift access to asylum procedures and, where appropriate, returns conducted speedily in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement. The situation of minors is of particular salience in this respect.

Given the unprecedented scale of the border crossing and the deeply conflicting accounts regarding allegations of orchestration and prior intelligence warnings, it is urgent that the Parliamentary Assembly prepares an independent report to establish circumstances and causes that led to the mass crossing. The report should also outline the immediate humanitarian, diplomatic, infrastructural, and legislative actions required.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group