



**Ad-Hoc Committee on Migration
Field Visit to Spain (Madrid, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)**

(19-22 March 2025)

Report



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Cover photo: Delegation of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration upon their arrival in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

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I. Executive Summary

From 20-21 March 2025, a delegation of twelve¹ members of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, led by its Chair, Vice-President Dr. Daniela De Ridder (Germany), was hosted in Madrid and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, by the Delegation of Spain to the OSCE PA and the Spanish Chamber of Deputies. The purpose of this mission was to gain first-hand insight into the country's approach to managing migration flows, with a focus on the Canary Islands – which since 2020 have again experienced a sharp increase in irregular arrivals of migrants departing from the West African Atlantic Route. As with previous visits, special attention was paid to the situation of vulnerable groups, notably unaccompanied minors and women, as well as combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking. It also sought to identify examples of best practices as well as areas where further support is needed.

In Madrid on 20 March, the delegation met with a broad range of governmental and parliamentary interlocutors, including the Minister for Territorial Policy and Democratic Memory as well as the Secretary of State for Migration. On 21 March in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria the delegation met with the president of the regional government of the Canary Islands, the delegate of the central government as well as representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Three migrant reception facilities were visited – one in Madrid and two in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria – providing some insight into the handling of nearly 47,000 irregular arrivals in 2024.

The key points highlighted in the discussions centered on Spain's response to the significant spike in irregular migration along the Western African Atlantic route. The need for increased European solidarity and the importance of further development support to countries of origin to address the root causes of migration and prevent brain drain were emphasized. Discussions also touched on the importance of improving asylum procedures, enhancing border protection, combating migrant smuggling and trafficking, and creating more accessible legal pathways for migration. A recent decree adopted in Madrid aimed at redistributing unaccompanied minors across Spain was welcomed as a positive step, although there was a shared recognition that more support is needed to respond to the growing humanitarian challenge and to ensure the identification and protection of vulnerable migrants.

¹ The delegation also included: Vice-Chairs Kemal Çelik (Türkiye), Kyriakos Hadjiyanni (Cyprus), Farah Karimi (Netherlands) and Gudrun Kugler (Austria), as well as members Alessandro Alfieri (Italy), Canan Bayram (Germany), Valérie Boyer (France), Hedy Fry (Canada), Artemi Vicent Rallo (Spain), Liliana Reis (Portugal) and Baroness Rosie Winterton of Doncaster (United Kingdom). The delegation was joined in Madrid by Head of the Delegation of Spain to the OSCE PA Vice-President Pere Joan Pons.

II. Background

Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Africa, Spain has emerged as a key hub for migration, serving as a primary destination for migrants and refugees arriving via various irregular sea and land routes, including the West African Atlantic Route and the Western Mediterranean Route.

With a diverse migrant population, Spain plays a vital role in European migration management. Spain's migration history began to shift significantly after the economic crisis of the 1970s. Prior to this, the country saw only modest immigration, mainly from returning emigrants, European retirees, African workers – especially from Morocco – and Latin Americans fleeing military dictatorships. These inflows were relatively small compared to what would come in the following decades. After the end of Franco's dictatorship in 1975, Spain's transition to democracy and its growing economy began attracting increasing numbers of foreign workers to fill jobs that had become less appealing to the native population. Although immigration remained low during the 1980s, by the late 1990s, Spain started to see a shift. As the country experienced strong economic growth in the early 2000s, the immigrant population grew exponentially².

In the mid-2000s, Spain saw an increase in migration to the Canary Islands, known as the "Cayucos Crisis"³. In 2006, over 30,000 migrants attempted dangerous sea crossings in overcrowded boats, with many losing their lives. In response, Spain coordinated with European and African nations to enhance border security and address the root causes of migration⁴.

In recent years, the Western Mediterranean Route (WMR) has seen notable shifts since its peak in 2018. That year, it was the most-used route into Europe, with sea arrivals making up 87% of all detections. However, following joint efforts by Spain, Morocco, and the EU, along with the impact of COVID-19, arrivals significantly declined in 2019 and 2020⁵.

From 2020 onwards, the WMR sea segment dropped steadily—from 41% in 2020 to just 23% in 2024—reflecting a shift away from sea-based migration. Meanwhile, land arrivals

² Migration Policy Institute. (2023, April 28). *A Pragmatic Bet: The Evolution of Spain's Immigration System*. Retrieved from: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/spain-immigration-system-evolution> accessed on 05/03/2025

³ "Cayuco" is a Spanish term for a small canoe.

⁴ Kemp, W. (2016, May). *Learning from the Canaries: Lessons from the "Cayucos" Crisis*. IPI. Retrieved from: https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/1605_Learning-from-the-Canaries.pdf accessed on 05/03/2025

⁵ Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. (2024). *The Western Mediterranean and the Western African Atlantic Routes*. Retrieved from: <https://pam.int/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/PAM-TipCampaign-WesternMediterraneanRoute.pdf> accessed on 05/03/2025

through Ceuta and Melilla also decreased sharply, stabilizing at only 4% by 2024, compared to 42% in 2016⁶ ⁷.

Despite this overall decline, recent years show a resurgence. In 2023 and 2024, irregular arrivals increased again, with Moroccans and Algerians comprising the majority of migrants. There has also been a rise in the use of high-speed boats and reports of armed smugglers, pointing to more dangerous and organized smuggling tactics⁶.

In contrast, the Western African Atlantic Route (WAAR) has surged significantly in recent years, especially since 2018. Through bilateral agreements and maritime controls after the 2006 "Cayucos crisis," arrivals dropped to just 421 in 2017. However, the route saw a sharp resurgence beginning in 2018, escalating dramatically with the onset of COVID-19 in 2020. That year alone, over 23,000 migrants reached the Canary Islands—an eightfold increase from 2019⁸.

Although arrivals dipped by 31% in 2022, they spiked again in 2023, rising by 161% compared to the previous year, driven largely by instability in Senegal, Mali, and Morocco. This trend has continued into 2025, with 10,457 arrivals already recorded by April 20, indicating persistent pressure on this route⁸.

The WAAR has also become increasingly deadly. In 2024, it was the world's deadliest migration route, with over 10,000 deaths—more than 9,700 of which occurred along the Atlantic journey to the Canary Islands. Departures from Mauritania were particularly lethal, accounting for over 6,800 deaths, followed by Senegal and The Gambia⁹.

While most migrants are men, about 24% of those arriving by sea to Spain (both WMR and WAAR) in 2022 were women, highlighting a gender pattern influenced by migration risks and labor demands. The sustained increase in irregular arrivals and tragic loss of life continue to pose serious humanitarian and security challenges along the WAAR¹⁰.

⁶ Frontex. (2025). *Western Mediterranean*. Retrieved from: https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Migratory_routes/2025/ANNEX_Western-Mediterranean_up-to-2023.pdf accessed on 05/03/2025

⁷ IOM. (2024). *Europe – Mixed Migration Flows to Europe, Yearly Overview (2024)*. Retrieved from: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/europe-mixed-migration-flows-europe-yearly-overview-2024?close=true> accessed on 14/03/2025

⁸ Frontex. (2025). *Western African Route*. Retrieved from: https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Migratory_routes/2025/ANNEX_Western-African-Route_up-to-2023.pdf accessed on 05/03/2025

⁹ Macias, M. (2024, December 21). *More than 10,000 migrants died in 2024 trying to reach Spain by sea, aid group says*. NPR.com. Retrieved from: <https://www.npr.org/2024/12/27/nx-s1-5240838/migrants-deaths-report-africa-spain-canary-islands> accessed on 07/03/2025

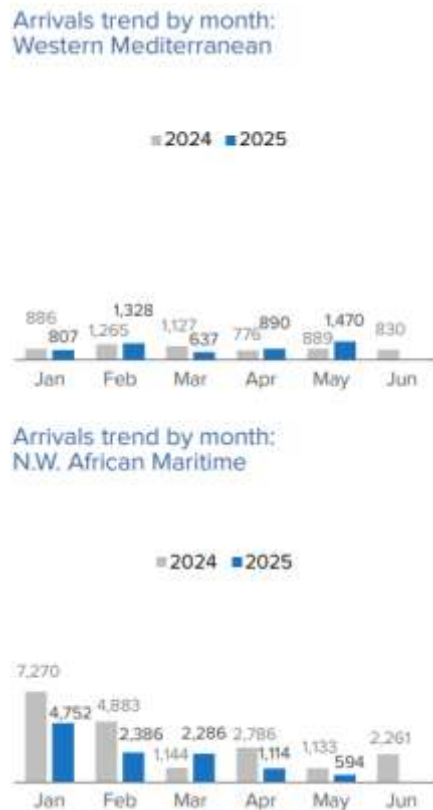
¹⁰ IOM. (2023, March). *Women & Girls on the Move: A Snapshot of Available Evidence*. Retrieved from: https://www.migrationdataportal.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl251/files/2023-03/GDI%20Briefs_Gender_Issue_09-03.pdf accessed on 06/03/2025

Current migration landscape

In 2024 irregular arrivals by land and sea increased 12% in comparison to the previous year, to a total of 63,970. Additionally, 88,206 asylum applications were filed in the first half of 2024, with more than 64% of them submitted by nationals from Latin America, primarily Venezuelans, Colombians, Peruvians, Hondurans, and Nicaraguans. Lastly, as of mid-2024, there were 423,004 registered refugees, most of them of Ukrainian origin; 254,050 asylum-seekers; and 8,578 stateless people.¹¹

As of May 2025, migrant arrivals through the Canary Islands route (WAAR) had significantly declined after peaking in November 2024.¹¹ Meanwhile, the Western Mediterranean route remained more stable but with lower overall numbers, except for the month of May 2025.

Figure 1. UNHCR Spain Fact Sheet's data on Population Statistics as of May 2025



¹¹ The number of arrivals through this route reached a peak of 7,563 in November before gradually decreasing to 5,054 in December; 4,752 in January 2025; 2,386 in February 2025; 2,286 in March 2025; 1,114 in April 2025, and 594 in May 2025.

Although, irregular migration has been increasing in Spain, migrants with an irregular status still account for a very small share of the total number of migrants in the country. Regular migration is driven by various factors, including agreements with Latin American countries, and a recent policy shift to legalize a large number of undocumented migrants to bolster the workforce.

According to the latest (provisional) data from the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE), Spain's resident population was 49,077,984 as of 1 January 2025. Of this total, 6,852,348 individuals (approximately 14%) hold foreign nationality, while 9,379,972 (around 19%) were born outside the country. This demographic growth is largely driven by immigration, with the largest migrant communities originating from Colombia, Venezuela and Morocco.

As of 31 December 2024, there were 6.35 million foreigners with legal residency in Spain. This includes 3.2 million non-EU third-country nationals, of whom 1.6 million already hold long-term 5-year residence permits. Approximately 300,000 individuals have obtained residence permits through the *arraigo* process, which requires proof of continuous residence in Spain for at least two years, along with either an employment contract, financial means provided by a close relative, or enrolment in formal education or training. In addition, 3.15 million EU nationals reside legally in Spain, with 550,000 of their direct relatives from third countries also holding legal residency.

III. Madrid (20 March 2025)

1. Secretary of State for Migration, Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Ms. Pilar Cancela Rodríguez



Ms. Pilar Cancela Rodríguez presented an overview of Spain's approach to migration, which consists of viewing it as both a human rights issue and an opportunity. She noted that migration has always been integral to human history, fostering learning and exchange. With Europe's aging population, migration is increasingly vital, as Spain could lose approximately four million working-age

individuals by 2050 if nothing is done to counter this trend.

State Secretary Cancela acknowledged the complexities of migration policy, stressing that while security and border control matter, the primary focus should be on migration as an opportunity. She highlighted Europe's need to uphold social cohesion and human rights, as these are fundamental to European identity.

Traditionally a country of emigration, Spain has, in the last five years, become a destination country, she noted. Its foreign population has grown from one million to seven million in the past 25 years. Thanks to the presence of foreign nationals and increasing birth rates, Spain's demographic challenge is being met, she stressed.

Ms. Cancela underlined the main goal of Spain's immigration policy which is integration. She also highlighted the country's strategic position as the southernmost border of the European Union, and the EU country which is closest to Africa: Spain and Morocco are separated by 14 km at the narrowest point of the Strait of Gibraltar; there are furthermore land borders at Ceuta and Melilla. Spain's geography, particularly its proximity to Africa, makes it a significant hub for migration. However, most migration to Spain is legal and orderly, she stressed, via airports; irregular migration represents only 10% of overall arrivals, with the Western African Atlantic Route (WAAR) being among the most dangerous. The Canary Islands receive approximately 70% of irregular arrivals from this route with departures from Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia (over 1,500 km away). Ms. Cancela also pointed to the root causes driving migration from African countries, such as climate change, water scarcity, political instability, and persecution risks.

Since 2023 in particular, Spain has been experiencing a significant rise in irregular migrant arrivals, increasing pressure on its reception system. Spain ranks as the second-highest recipient of irregular migrants in Europe, following Italy, and the second in terms of total number of asylum claims (167,000) after Germany. In response, Spain has increased its budget and resources.

The Secretary of State expressed concern over the potential impact of U.S. migration policies and US foreign aid cuts, on Spain and the rest of the world, e.g. US policies regarding Venezuela, with migrants expected to turn to Spain instead.

Reaffirming Spain's commitment to multilateralism, she stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation. She referenced the European Union Migration Pact, which, despite not being ideal for all EU members, was a great achievement under Spain's EU presidency, and provides a crucial framework for managing migration. If needed, the Pact can be adjusted, she suggested. Spain remains committed to implementing the Pact, particularly regarding screening procedures, support for vulnerable individuals, and funding distribution. Spain, as one of the countries experiencing the greatest migratory pressure, should receive funds in proportion to these needs, she stressed, calling for more solidarity from other EU countries.

Migration is no longer a temporary phenomenon but a daily reality, she asserted, which should be managed in the best possible way. She emphasized the importance of cooperation with countries of origin, advocating for action beyond rhetoric. Spain has bilateral agreements with a number of countries, including Morocco, Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania and Cape Verde, she noted. She also touched upon circular migration programmes which allow

beneficiaries from Africa and Latin America to work in Spain for 9 months and then return home with skills. Ms. Cancela remarked that during the Covid pandemic, carers were mostly migrants. There is also a great need for labour in the service sector, IT and to support the green transition. She emphasized the need for a strategy to harness the work force amongst people coming to Spain and to facilitate their access to employment to meet these labour market needs. The country has taken steps in this direction by amending its immigration regulation to make it easier to enter the labour market.

She stressed that integration is key to making this a win/win situation, underscoring Spain's priority of ensuring that migrants become fully integrated into society, particularly through language acquisition and stable daily routines. She also underlined the importance of promoting migration through safe and orderly channels. Recognizing the obstacles posed by the difficult political situation and anti-immigrant hate speech, she called for fighting against such divisive narratives through careful political discourse. She also underlined that Spain would not carry out mass deportations and that each return would be evaluated on an individual basis and in line with human rights.

In the discussion, one participant emphasized the need to change the narrative and highlight the potential of migration rather than only security concerns. Ms. Cancela recognized the rising influence of far-right rhetoric and its impact on migration policies and agreed that migration should be approached with a positive, pragmatic narrative. She expressed pride in the Spanish model but recognized that there were bottlenecks due to the large volume of asylum requests and the shortage of staff, which could result in the deadline of 6 months being exceeded. She also strongly condemned mafias who submit asylum requests in order to stay in the system and who take advantage of the vulnerabilities of migrants.



Ms. Cancela also provided a short overview of the Spanish reception system which aims to provide comprehensive attention to migrants from the moment of arrival. Language training is provided immediately; professional skills training is also available in order to guide them towards the relevant professional sector where there is a need for labour. Spain provides people in an irregular system an opportunity to integrate and lead a normal life, she underlined, following reforms which were the result of a broad political consensus.

She cited political obstacles to the relocation of unaccompanied minors from the Canary Islands throughout the country, emphasizing the need for a more egalitarian distribution of asylum seekers and optimizing the use of public resources.

Additional questions were raised by members of the delegation regarding how Spain is dealing with the change in the political landscape in Europe, as well as Spain's budget for the migrant reception system. Spain's demographic challenges and the risk of 'brain drain' affecting countries of origin were also discussed, with one participant asking whether 'brain circulation'/circular migration programmes are really effective, questioning whether beneficiaries really return to their country after 9 months in Spain. Further clarifications were also requested regarding requirements for obtaining Spanish citizenship as well as how strict Spain is in dealing with asylum requests.

Another participant shared examples of best practice in refugee resettlement programmes from her own country, also noting that due to rising costs of living and expected backlash, the numbers taken in had to be reduced, and asking how Spain was dealing with political pushback against migrants and Spanish citizens saying that migrants are taking jobs from them.

Delegation members were also interested in the magnitude of the backlog in asylum applications. There was also interest in Spain's bilateral agreements with countries of origin, whether these have been effective or whether they merely lead to re-routing of irregular migration flows, and whether these agreements contain provisions on how to deal with criminal gangs, and whether they are compatible with the EU Migration Pact. The issue of human trafficking and how Spain was addressing it was also raised.

Responding briefly to the questions raised due to time limits, Ms. Cancela clarified the objectives of the immigration reform intended to facilitate family reunification by simplifying criteria for 'next of kin'. Regarding the rise of the far right, she acknowledged that this was a reality in most European countries. In the past, there were no problems with the transfer of unaccompanied minors to other parts of the country; it was now that it was being politicized that obstacles have arisen. On the question of 'brain drain', she agreed that there was a need to find a balance between development and migration, touching upon a pilot project with Senegal in which the Senegalese government provides returning students with housing support. She also acknowledged challenges in Spain's asylum system and emphasized ongoing efforts to improve support for irregular migrants. She highlighted Spain's partnerships with organizations such as non-governmental organizations CEAR (Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance) and ACCEM and noted the need to expand public-sector reception facilities, which currently house approximately 14,060 migrants. She concluded by reaffirming the importance of maintaining a human rights perspective in migration policy and called for Europe to continue working together to uphold these principles and ensure successful integration.

2. Emergency and Referral Centre (CAED Madrid)

The delegation visited an Emergency and Referral Centre (CAED) in the Carabanchel district of Madrid. This is a facility opened in November 2023, primarily accommodating adult male migrants without family, transferred from the Canary Islands as well as the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla. Its capacity has been expanded to 1970 places. The main nationalities are Mali (about 50%) followed by Senegal, Morocco, Gambia as well as Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The delegation was briefed about the reception system and procedures carried out, as they were visiting the centre. Most migrants reach Spain by boat, with the Canary Islands serving as their first entry point. Upon arrival, the Spanish Red Cross which manages the centre under the supervision of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, provides first aid and medical assistance, while volunteers help with initial identification. A first identification of vulnerabilities is also done at this stage. The police then conduct a legal identification process, after which migrants receive a document acknowledging their irregular entry and stating that they must return to their country and re-enter regularly. The police may detain them for 72 hours maximum.

Following this, migrants are transferred to reception centres in the Canary Islands, where their basic needs are met before being relocated to facilities on the mainland such as CAED Madrid. The centre is staffed by administrative personnel, social workers, and mediators, all working under the Spanish Red Cross. The facility not only provides accommodation but also assists in finding better housing when necessary. Spanish language lessons are also offered to support integration.

During the visit, parliamentarians met with a group of volunteers who were migrants themselves, primarily from Mali and Senegal. These volunteers, mainly assisting with translation, spoke positively about the facility's conditions, the support provided, and their overall experience in Spain. They also shared personal stories about their migration journeys and hopes for the future.

The delegation of parliamentarians sought to understand the legal status of the migrants, particularly whether they were asylum seekers. It was explained that asylum applications can be submitted upon arrival in the Canary Islands, with the Ministry of the Interior handling the process. However, Spain also offers alternative pathways to regularization, such as through the *arraigo* system¹².

¹² In short, the *arraigo* system in Spain grants residency and work permits to undocumented immigrants after a period of stay in the country based on five different modalities, such as: (1) social; (2) socio-labor; (3) family; (4) socio-educational; and (5) a "second chance" *arraigo* for individuals who held a residence permit in the past

3. Minister for Territorial Policy and Democratic Memory Mr. Ángel Víctor Torres Pérez



Minister Torres Pérez, Minister for Territorial Policy and Democratic Memory, informed the delegation that he was also chair of an inter-governmental commission which coordinates migration policies. Minister Torres also shared that he is from the Canary Islands himself.

Minister Torres emphasized that migrants are a key solution to labor shortages, noting that there was a need for 300,000 migrants per year in the labour market. Migrants furthermore contribute 10% of the income of social security which is important in light of the significant increase expected in the share of the elderly population in Spain in the coming years.

Mr. Torres highlighted Spain's bilateral agreements with countries of origin as essential in managing migration flows. He also noted the significance of 2020, a pivotal year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration policies. Additionally, he referenced a royal decree¹³ adopted earlier that week regarding the distribution of unaccompanied minors and which was expected to be ratified by parliament in April.¹⁴ This would allow for unaccompanied minors arriving in the Canary Islands for example to be relocated to other parts of the country in order to avoid overcrowding and to optimize the provision of humanitarian assistance.

During the discussion, one parliamentarian expressed appreciation for Spain's emphasis on humanitarian aspects and stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of migration, emphasizing that most individuals do not leave their homes voluntarily. Minister Torres agreed that the humanitarian aspect is fundamental during the first response and that it was crucial to establish centres to provide immediate assistance.

but failed to renew it. Following reforms in November 2024, the duration of stay in the country is reduced from 3 to 2 years. For more, see: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/spain-new-immigration-reform-enhance-migrant-integration-2024-11-21_en; and also: <https://www.inclusion.gob.es/en/w/el-gobierno-aprueba-un-nuevo-reglamento-de-extranjeria-para-mejorar-la-integracion-de-las-personas-migrantes-a-traves-de-tres-palancas-trabajo-formacion-y-familia>.

¹³ La Moncloa, "The Government of Spain establishes a model of solidarity, objectivity and flexibility for the reception of unaccompanied migrant children" (18 March 2025), at: <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/councilministers/Paginas/2025/20250318-council-press-conference.aspx>.

¹⁴ <https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20250411-spain-approves-plan-to-relocate-unaccompanied-migrants-from-canary-islands>

The question of the gender dynamics of migration was also raised, given the predominance of male migrants. Minister Torres noted that, while indeed the large majority of migrants who arrived in the Canary Islands during the first wave of cayucos/makeshift boats in 2005-2006 were men, the share of women and minors in the current irregular arrivals has increased. There are also girls arriving without their parents.

More details were also requested regarding Spain's bilateral agreements with countries of origin and whether the issue of criminal networks is handled in these agreements or through other mechanisms. Minister Torres explained that these agreements vary by country and that they do not always work. He acknowledged that organized crime plays a role in migration dynamics and underlined that Spain is taking the necessary measures to combat human trafficking and smuggling.

Further inquiries focused on the recent agreement reached on a mechanism for the redistribution of unaccompanied minors, and its expected impact. The Minister explained that, while adult migrants fall within the competence of the state and can be transferred to the mainland, unaccompanied minors fall within the competence of the autonomous regions where they arrive. There are now nearly 6,000 unaccompanied minors in the Canary Islands. Following the new decree adopted, they can now be transferred to other areas of Spain once 15 days have elapsed.

Concerns were raised that many migrants do not apply for asylum. Clarifications were also requested regarding the *arraigo* system and how it facilitates integration. Minister Torres addressed these inquiries, explaining the complexities of the asylum process and the legal pathways available for migrants to regularize their status. A question was also asked on the number of migrants who remain in Spain and their employment status. Minors (under 18) do not work. Adult migrants on the other hand have access to training and workshops to enhance their skills.



Minister Torres concluded by reaffirming Spain's commitment to addressing migration through a balanced approach, combining labor market needs, humanitarian considerations, and cooperation with origin countries.

4. Director General for International Relations and Immigration, Ms. Elena Garzón Otamendi, and Deputy Director for Institutional Relations and Information of the International Protection Department, Ms. Elena Isabel Olivares Berlanga



Ms. Elena Garzón Otamendi emphasized the importance of combating migrant smuggling. She also touched upon Spain's agreements with countries of origin, noting the geographic proximity of Spain with Africa.

She also underlined the good relations between Spain and countries of Latin America, informing the delegation that a significant number of asylum applications come from Latin America, in addition to those submitted by African migrants arriving in

Spain via maritime routes. Spain ranks second amongst EU Member States in terms of the number of applications for international protection, with Venezuela and Colombia being the lead countries of applicants.

The main priority of Spain's migration policy is to prevent irregular arrivals through three main elements:

1. Cooperation development and foreign affairs
2. Legal pathways
3. Combating migrant smuggling

Emphasizing that the Ministry of Interior is responsible for border control, particularly for maritime migration, she underscored the necessity of cooperation with countries of origin to effectively manage these routes. Cooperation strategies vary by country, and securing their collaboration requires providing them with adequate support. She also stressed the importance of tackling smuggling networks and strengthening institutional cooperation to address transnational threats.

During the discussion, the members of the delegation inquired further about the expected impact of the EU Pact on Migration with one Member querying whether this would threaten Spain's approach. A question was also asked about Spain's return and readmission policies. Ms. Garzón Otamendi explained that Spain was implementing returns in accordance with the EU Return Directive which prevents secondary movements. She reiterated the key importance of bilateral efforts in ensuring effective border management while noting that dialogue was also needed at the multilateral level as there are many common challenges shared by EU Member States. Ms. Garzón Otamendi also touched upon measures taken along maritime borders to curb irregular migration, such as joint border surveillance with Mauritania and Senegal.

Ms. Elena Isabel Olivares Berlanga addressed the relationship between migration management and the international protection system. If someone has been in Spain for two years and are well integrated, they can apply for a permit to stay under the *arraigo* system. She clarified that individuals who apply for international protection cannot later transition into the Spanish migration system through other legal pathways. One cannot go from one system to another. This distinction plays a key role in structuring Spain's approach to migration and asylum. She also briefly addressed the issue of combating human trafficking.



Both officials reaffirmed Spain's commitment to balancing border security with humanitarian considerations and maintaining strong international partnerships to address migration challenges effectively.

5. Joint meeting with Ms. María Luisa García Gurrutxaga, Deputy Chair of the Work, Social Economy, Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations Committee, and the Spokespersons for Migrations of the Congress of Deputies



The final session in Madrid consisted of an exchange between the delegation and the migration spokespersons/deputy spokespersons for the different parliamentary parties in the Work, Social Economy, Inclusion, Social Security and Migration Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

Each MP spoke briefly about their party's position regarding on migration and Spain's migration policy. This was followed by an exchange of views with the OSCE PA delegation. Ms. Maribel VAQUERO (Basque National Party – PNV) focused on the decree which had recently been adopted on the relocation of unaccompanied minors throughout Spain, stating that her group was preparing an opinion on this decree. She also emphasized that 80% of migrants arrive through airports rather than by maritime routes. Mr. Vicenç VIDAL MATAS (Sumar representative from Mallorca) stressed that Spain needs workers and that there was a need to regularize migrants. Mr. David GARCÍA GOMIS (Vox) presented his party's position which is in favour of immigration in a controlled and regulated fashion. The arrival of unaccompanied minors in Spain acts as a pull factor he argued. He also focused on the

different value systems of migrants making it difficult for them to integrate, also highlighting attacks perpetrated by migrants which has been contributing to a feeling of insecurity in European countries. Ms. Blanca CERCAS MENA (Spanish Socialist Workers' Party – PSOE) focused on the *arraigo* system and need for coexistence and steps to enhance the rights of foreigners. She also touched upon the EU Migration Pact, highlighting the need for a more equitable distribution of asylum seekers. Ms. Sofía ACEDO REYES (Popular Party –PP, from the autonomous city of Melilla) noted a tendency of increase in irregular arrivals in Spain. The majority arrive through the main airports. Remarking on the fact that Catalonia doesn't want to take in any more unaccompanied minors, she called for unaccompanied minors to fall under the competence of the state and not the autonomous regions. Her party also advocates for increased control of borders and enhanced collaboration with third countries.

In the second round of remarks, the need for successful integration programmes was stressed. Catalonia and the Balearic Islands were also commended by MP Vidal for having the most robust systems for receiving unaccompanied minors. In relation to the new decree, MP Acedo Reyes clarified that the Popular Party was not against migration; rather, it rejects an agreement where autonomous regions have to provide protection to unaccompanied minors without the necessary safeguards. It was also noted that Spain is currently experiencing the lowest percentage of returns of migrants in its history and that the autonomous regions do not have the capacity to carry out returns. In a final round, the members of the OSCE PA reacted to the various positions on migration being presented, with one Member stressing the need to put the human perspective at the centre. Another Member remarked that the *arraigo* system seemed to be a useful policy instrument. In reaction to the comment about different value systems, one Member rejected the notion of “European” values, emphasizing that values were universal and shared.

IV. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (21 March 2025)

1. Government Delegate at the Autonomous Region of the Canary Islands Mr. Anselmo Pestana Padrón

Mr. Anselmo Pestana Padrón was appointed as representative of the Spanish government in February 2020. Migration was already increasing in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. This added an additional challenge, as authorities had to ensure health screenings upon arrival and quarantines. While most migrants did not carry COVID-19, other diseases were present. Despite significant support and goodwill from organizations such as the Red Cross, maritime forces and the civil guard, resources at the time were insufficient.

Currently, the Canary Islands have increased their reception capacity to accommodate between 7,000-8,000 migrants. Temporary reception centres (CATE) were established on the main islands. Since January, El Hierro, one of the islands closest to Africa, has been receiving a large share of arrivals: 23,000 persons for a population of only about 10,000.



Migrants arriving on the islands of Fuerteventura and Lanzarote primarily come from Morocco and Western Sahara, whereas those arriving in Gran Canaria, Tenerife and El Hierro are leaving from Mauritania, Mali and Senegal. Upon arrival, they undergo a health check due to the harsh conditions of their journey, which often results in dehydration and severe medical issues, including limb loss caused by prolonged exposure to salt, sea, and oil in the

boats. After this, they are transferred to a reception centre, where they remain for approximately three months while undergoing identification by the police. Adults are later relocated to mainland Spain.

The Canary Islands have received over 140,000 persons over the past five years, Mr. Pestana Padrón noted. They cannot accommodate all of the unaccompanied minors. The recent amendment to Article 35 of the immigration law provides for a relocation mechanism. It establishes that when an autonomous community exceeds its capacity to accommodate unaccompanied minors, they must be relocated to other autonomous communities, ensuring the sharing of responsibilities.

In the discussion, Members asked whether there were also minors travelling with their parents. The EU Pact and its impact on Spanish policies once implementation starts in 2026 was also raised. Another Member suggested that Spain's *arraigo* system was acting as a "pull factor" for migrants. One Member also asked for further details on the government's efforts to control Spain's borders with Morocco.



In response to questions by the delegation, Mr. Pestana Padrón clarified that, while Spain does not have direct agreements with Morocco, relations have significantly improved in recent years. However, bilateral agreements do exist with Senegal, Mauritania and Gambia, where joint teams operate with vessels, helicopters and planes to monitor migration routes. These efforts have led to the return of some 40% of migrants before reaching the Canary Islands, preventing an estimated

influx of around 70,000 people. Frontex also operates in the region, gathering information and sharing intelligence with countries of origin. Recent operations have intercepted boats before departure, curbing human smuggling networks. In the previous week, this information sharing had led to the dismantlement of a mafia network in Gambia involved in migrant smuggling; and three boats carrying 638 persons had been stopped. The dangers of this route are extreme, he underlined, with some boats drifting to distant locations such as Brazil or Cape Verde, often carrying deceased passengers. Spain is also working on expanding Frontex agreements with countries of origin and transit, enabling the agency to have officers in the field.

Mr. Pestana Padrón touched upon the different motivations behind the decision to leave, such as conflict while others migrate primarily for economic reasons. Spain has historically been one of the leading European countries in deporting migrants arriving for financial motives, he underlined. He also informed the delegation that the largest share of migrants in Spain come from Latin America because of the easy access to citizenship due to historic ties (migration from Spain to Latin America) and often due to the same native language and related cultures. Migrants offset the demographic deficit in Spain, he emphasized.

Responding to further questions regarding combating migrant smuggling and whether Morocco and the EU were doing enough, Pestana Padrón reiterated that relations with Morocco had improved significantly following the change of government in Spain and that, in the last six months alone, Morocco had intercepted and returned 50% of vessels attempting to reach Spain, a significant effort given its extensive coastline. There are also liaison officers in the Canary Islands who help dismantle groups involved in human trafficking. Increased intelligence-sharing with Mauritania for example has also disrupted smuggling networks. Pestana Padrón stressed the huge efforts made by the Spanish government to help the Canary Islands. There are 11 rescue vessels, with four of the larger ones based in the Canary Islands, as well as two helicopters and one plane provided by the Spanish Air Force for Search and Rescue efforts.

He also clarified why unaccompanied minors could not be relocated to the mainland unlike adults. This was due to the ruling of the Constitutional Court of Spain that their protection fell under the responsibility of autonomous regions upon identification. Authorities work closely with forensic and medical professionals to verify the ages of minors through a bone test and a psychological assessment, as some misrepresent their age for personal reasons, such as employment eligibility.

Regarding the European Migration Pact, he emphasized the need for its implementation, balancing humanitarian considerations with necessary security measures.

Mr. Pestana Padrón concluded by recognizing the huge challenges which the Canary Islands have been facing but expressed confidence that, thanks to the goodwill of all parties, the situation had improved significantly.

2. President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, Mr. Fernando Clavijo Batlle



The delegation met with the President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, Mr. Fernando Clavijo Batlle who gave an overview of the challenges which the Canary Islands had been facing. He emphasized that while migration should not be halted, efforts must be made to reduce fatalities and weaken the power of smuggling networks. He noted that Africa represents a significant opportunity for development, as recognized by China and Russia, but Europe has yet to fully engage. He also underlined the good cooperation between the authorities and non-governmental organizations.

President Clavijo Batlle furthermore highlighted the Canary Islands' long history of migration and peaceful co-existence with migrants apart from a few isolated incidents. In fact, the inhabitants of the Canary Islands are migrants themselves, he noted. When migrants arrive in the Canary Islands, they are not just arriving in Spain, they are entering Europe, he emphasized. Migration must therefore be addressed through a common response at the European level. Mr. Clavijo Batlle welcomed the recent agreement reached to transfer migrants (unaccompanied minors) to the Spanish mainland. He also stressed that cooperation with African countries of origin to manage migration is essential but requires a long-term commitment, underlining the responsibility towards the African continent.

A major challenge in addressing irregular migration is identifying the leaders of smuggling operations, as many operate with the complicity of local authorities. He pointed out that smuggling networks subject migrants to extreme dangers, including violence and sexual

abuse. However, he argued that tackling these criminals should focus on the countries of origin rather than solely at the point of arrival.

Mr. Clavijo Batlle called for a proactive European migration policy, acknowledging that migration is a reality that will not disappear anytime soon. He emphasized the economic impact, stating that the Canary Islands allocate approximately €200 million annually to care for unaccompanied minors. Additionally, they are training more than 300 migrants per year to integrate them into the workforce, as labour shortages persist in sectors where locals are reluctant to work.



While migration management has costs, he underscored its benefits, particularly for the labour market. He also highlighted that tourism, a key economic sector for the Canary Islands, remains strong, with around 60% of visitors coming from Germany and the UK, and encouraged tourists to keep coming. He concluded by stressing that migration is a complex issue, underlining the need for in-depth, long-term policies that go beyond short-term solutions.

3. First Arrival Centre (CPLL – Canarias 50)

The delegation visited two migrant centres in Gran Canaria, starting with the First Arrival Centre (CPLL – Canarias 50) – an all-male facility established in 2020 as part of *Plan Canarias* developed following the surge in irregular arrivals. The centre is located in a repurposed military camp and serves as an initial reception site.



The facility has a capacity of 1,700 people, with 1,200 currently accommodated. Arrivals at the centre are not daily or continuous; they depend on various factors, including weather conditions, with peaks observed between October and May. At the moment, there were fewer arrivals; this was attributed to Ramadan.

Upon arrival, migrants are first received by the Red Cross before undergoing police identification procedures, which take up to 72 hours. During this process, migrants are issued a return order (*acuerdo de devolución*), although in practice,

many qualify for international protection or can apply for *arraigo laboral*¹⁵, allowing them to stay longer under asylum or labour integration programs.

Migrants then arrive at the centre and can remain there for a maximum of three months. After this period, they may leave voluntarily or apply either for International Protection or Humanitarian Assistance. Many who move to mainland Spain already have family or friends there, facilitating their transition.

The centre provides essential services, including healthcare and food. Minors attend local schools while adults attend Spanish language classes. In addition to language courses, there are various cultural integration programs aiming to introduce migrants to the local culture, traditions, and customs of the Canary Islands. The facility also respects cultural and religious traditions, such as Ramadan. During the visit, parliamentarians observed Spanish lessons and engaged with migrants, who shared their future aspirations and work-related backgrounds.

Efforts are ongoing to improve relations with the surrounding neighbourhood, and while racism exists, it is not considered a major issue. Spain remains one of the European countries with the highest number of asylum applications (about 166,000 in 2024), reflecting its role as a key destination for migrants seeking international protection.

4. Care, Emergency and Referral Centre (CAED Colégio León)



The Care, Emergency, and Referral Centre (CAED Colégio León) is a facility dedicated to family units and single women in operation since November 2024. The centre currently houses over 300 women and 105 children and is jointly managed by the Ministry of Social Inclusion, Migration, and the *Cruz Blanca* (White Cross) Foundation which manages the social care aspects, while the government oversees administration and resource allocation.

The centre receives new arrivals daily. Male residents are only allowed if they are accompanying their wives. Women at the centre are classified based on their specific circumstances, including pregnant women, those arriving with children, and full or extended families (such as women arriving with their children and nephews). The facility operates as an open centre, allowing residents to leave and move freely within the city, though certain rules and security measures are in place. The primary goal of the centre is to provide the

¹⁵ In short, the *arraigo laboral* is a Spanish residency permit granted to undocumented immigrants who have lived in Spain for at least two years and can prove at least six months of legal employment.

necessary support for women and their children to eventually become autonomous. However, no unaccompanied minors are housed here. Residents typically stay for an average of three months, but in cases of vulnerability—such as pregnancy—they may remain longer, with *Cruz Blanca* ensuring their well-being. The maximum stay is six months, with the possibility of an extension for another six months if necessary.

The centre maintains a limit of six people per room. Many residents, both women and children, are victims of female genital mutilation (FGM), highlighting the need for specialized medical and psychological care.

Unlike other reception centres, CAED Colégio León does not provide job training, as many of the women are not in a legal situation to seek employment. The centre offers essential services such as a canteen, security surveillance, and social support. It consists of three main buildings for family accommodations, a nursery, a medical facility (including isolation facilities), and administrative offices, as well as additional spaces for security, laundry, and food services.

Education for children takes place outside the centre, with transport provided by bus. A designated playground area is also available for recreational activities. Upon daily arrival, all bags are checked for safety reasons to prevent potentially dangerous items from entering the facility.

5. Joint meeting with humanitarian organizations

The delegation then met with key humanitarian organizations working on migration in the Canary Islands: Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance (CEAR), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Spanish Red Cross, Save the Children and ACCEM. The representative of the Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance (CEAR) emphasized that the Canary Islands face greater challenges than mainland Spain, referring to the *cayucos* crisis of 2006. He also highlighted the different capacities to respond of the capital islands of Gran Canaria and Tenerife compared to the other islands such as Lanzarote and I Hierro. The main concern is the reception and care of unaccompanied minors, which requires a unified emergency response and long-term structural solutions. A shift toward circular migration policies is needed instead of relying solely on emergency measures.

The UNHCR representative highlighted that migration to the Canary Islands includes not only maritime arrivals from Africa but also individuals from Latin America. Nonetheless, for non-Spanish speakers, language barriers remain a challenge, making translation services crucial. UNHCR highlighted a number of challenges such as the lack of interpreters as well as difficulties accessing the asylum process due to a lack of legal assistance.

The Spanish Red Cross representative described its two main priorities: assisting vulnerable populations and engaging in humanitarian diplomacy. Moreover, they emphasized that greater coordination across facilities remains a key focus.

Save the Children stressed that migration flows will not stop, and that the increasing number of children arriving in Spain requires greater resources. They warned against over-politicizing the issue, emphasizing that these are children who need protection, education, and integration. Regrettably, many have not had access to schooling or language learning.

ACCEM, which primarily supports male migrants, described migration as a *human crisis* rather than a political issue. They argued that Spain must move beyond its current "emergency response" model and develop a long-term resource system. Despite challenges, they acknowledged that NGOs and authorities have managed to provide shelter for all arrivals. Strengthening and expanding reception centers remains a priority.

The director of Canarias 50 recognized improvements in NGO efforts and mentioned that some migrants are employed by these organizations after their stay. However, significant gaps remain in housing, policies for minors, and overall migration system facilitation. Better follow-up is needed, as many migrants remain vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation by criminal networks.

Parliamentarians were interested in what happens to migrants after leaving reception centers and in exploring legal migration pathways, given the dangers of the Western African Atlantic Route.

Key concerns raised by the NGOs and parliamentarians included:

- Legal Assistance Gaps: Many migrants lack proper legal guidance due to limited resources among bar associations in the Canary Islands.
- Changes in Migrant Profiles: The "feminization of the migration route" is increasing, with women and children now making up around 20% of arrivals.
- Lack of Child Protection Measures: There is no standardized protocol for assessing and supporting migrant children, which should be handled by trained professionals to protect their mental health.
- Data Deficiencies: The absence of disaggregated data on migrant children makes it difficult to design effective policies for their protection.

The organizations called for better legal pathways, stronger child protection measures, and improved cooperation between governmental and humanitarian entities.

6. Debrief and Conclusions of the Chair

The visit concluded with a short debrief session during which the participants shared their impressions of the visit and reflected on the various aspects of Spain's migration policies. They expressed their appreciation to the Spanish OSCE PA delegation and to the parliament for hosting this visit and enabling them to meet key actors in the field of migration policy as well as to visit three different types of reception centres and to engage with migrants and refugees themselves and to hear their perspectives.

Clear divergent opinions regarding Spanish migration policies and their impact were expressed by Members of the Committee. Some highlighted a number of positive aspects, such as the emphasis on providing language training to migrants and courses on social/cultural acclimatisation from day one to help them adapt, Spain's efforts to fight against traffickers and smugglers, bilateral agreements concluded with countries of origin to curb irregular migration and facilitate returns, and the work done by international governmental organisations, NGOs and humanitarian organizations.

Sympathy was also expressed by a number of Members for the challenges experienced by Spain due to its unique position as an EU border country, with close proximity to the African continent and as the only EU country with land borders with Africa. One Member reflected how this specific geographical and historical context is clearly reflected in Spain's approach: thoughtful, humane, and attuned to the demographic and economic needs of the country, rooted in human dignity, international law, and a well-understood self-interest and which offers hope and inspiration. The words of the President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, Mr. Fernando Clavijo Battle, "Walls do not stop people's hope", were also echoed.

At the same time, several Members criticized what was perceived as a pro-migration position of Spain which has an impact for the whole of Europe. There was agreement that more needs to be done to fight human traffickers and smugglers. The need for the rest of Europe to step up and support Spain was also emphasized by a number of Members.

In conclusion, Chair De Ridder commended Spain for its humanitarian approach, highlighting the importance of providing assistance to people in need. She also stressed the importance of remembering that human lives are at stake and not to dehumanize migrants.

ANNEX 1 – Press Release

Humanitarian approach to irregular migration in focus during OSCE PA visit to Madrid and Canary Islands

LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA, 22 March 2025 – A 12-member delegation of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, led by its Chair, OSCE PA Vice-President Daniela De Ridder (Germany), was in Madrid and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on 20-21 March, to learn more about how Spain has been coping with a major spike of irregular migrant arrivals since 2020 along the Western African Atlantic route from Morocco and further down the African coast to the Canary Islands. The visit aimed to identify areas of best practice with respect to migration management and assess areas where further support is needed, in particular with regards to vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors.

Hosted by OSCE PA Vice-President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) and the Congress of Deputies, the delegation met with key authorities, including Minister for Territorial Policy and Democratic Memory Ángel Víctor Torres Pérez, Secretary of State for Migration Pilar Cancela Rodríguez, officials from the International Protection department of the Ministry of Interior, as well as parliamentary spokespersons on migration. They also visited an emergency reception centre for male adults transferred from the Canary Islands as well as Ceuta and Melilla.

On the island of Gran Canaria, the delegation met with Anselmo Pestana Padrón, Government Delegate in the Autonomous Region of the Canary Islands, Fernando Clavijo Batlle, President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands, and representatives of international organizations and NGOs, including UNHCR, Red Cross, Save the Children. They also visited two further facilities – one hosting men and the other single women and families.

OSCE PA delegates learned more about how the Canary Islands are handling the record level of nearly 47,000 irregular arrivals in 2024, many of whom are unaccompanied minors and a growing number of women. More than 10,000 deaths and disappearances were recorded in 2024 along this and other various sea routes to Spain.

“Spain deserves a good deal of credit for its efforts to manage irregular migration. There is a lot that we can learn from the Spanish approach for example their agreements with countries of origin which seek to address root causes of migration,” said Ad Hoc Committee Chair Daniela De Ridder. “We must do more to support the authorities of the Canary Islands who are doing an admirable job in responding humanely to the record number of arrivals. Many of these migrants are vulnerable women and children, and we must ensure that they especially are protected.”

The Canary Islands are currently hosting over 5,000 unaccompanied minors, far beyond official reception capacity, as responsibility for hosting them falls with the autonomous

regions rather than the national government. Interlocutors in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria welcomed the decree recently adopted in Madrid to establish a mandatory mechanism for the redistribution of unaccompanied minors from the Canary Islands to other regions of Spain.

The majority of people in Spain empathize with the plight of migrants,” Ad Hoc Committee member Artemi Vicent Rallo (Spain) stressed. “However, we need more solidarity at the European level and a common European approach to the root causes of migration.” Rallo also underlined the need for further development support to countries of origin to stem the flow of irregular migration.

Some interlocutors also called for facilitating access to asylum procedures, as well as more accessible and effective information and legal assistance for migrants.

Border protection, combating migrant smuggling and trafficking, and the need for more legal pathways were also discussed, as well as the expectations from implementation of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration’s delegation included Vice-Chairs Kemal Çelik (Türkiye); Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus); Farah Karimi (The Netherlands); Gudrun Kugler (Austria); and members Alessandro Alfieri (Italy); Canan Bayram (Germany); Valérie Boyer (France); Hedy Fry (Canada); Artemi Vicent Rallo (Spain); Liliana Reis (Portugal); and Baroness Rosie Winterton (United Kingdom).

ANNEX 2 – Final Programme and Participants

Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

Field Visit to Spain (Madrid, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)

(19-22 March 2025)

Thursday, 20 March (Madrid)

- 09:30-11:00 Meeting with **Ms. Pilar CANCELA RODRÍGUEZ**, Secretary of State for Migration, Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration
(venue: Congress of Deputies)
- 11.30 Visit to the **Emergency and Referral Centre (CAED Madrid)** in Carabanchel
(venue: Girasol St./Duquesa de Tamames St. 28044 Madrid)
- 13:00-14:00 Meeting with **Mr. Ángel Víctor TORRES PÉREZ**, Minister for Territorial Policy and Democratic Memory
- 14:00-14:45 Meeting with **Ms. Elena Isabel OLIVARES BERLANGA**, Deputy Director General for Institutional Relations and Information of the International Protection, Ministry of the Interior, and **Ms. Elena GARZÓN OTAMENDI**, Director General for International Relations and Immigration
(venue: Congress of Deputies)
- 14:45-16:15 Official lunch with the participation of Members of the Congress of Deputies Ms. María Luisa GARCÍA GURRUTXAGA (Basque National Party), Mr. Vicenç VIDAL MATAS (Sumar), Ms. Viviane OGOU I CORBI (Sumar) *(venue: Congress of Deputies)*
- 16:15-18:00 Joint meeting with **Ms. María Luisa GARCÍA GURRUTXAGA**, Vice-President of the Work, Social Economy, Inclusion, Social Security and Migration Committee, and the Spokespersons/Deputy Spokespersons for Migration of the Congress of Deputies:
Ms. Maribel VAQUERO – Basque National Party (PNV)
Mr. Vicenç VIDAL MATAS – Sumar
Mr. David GARCÍA GOMIS – Vox
Ms. Blanca CERCAS MENA – Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE)
Ms. Sofía ACEDO REYES – Popular party (PP)
(venue: Congress of Deputies)

Friday, 21 March (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)

- 09:00-10:00 Meeting with **Mr. Anselmo PESTANA PADRÓN**, Government Delegate in the Autonomous Region of the Canary Islands
(venue: Plaza de la Feria, No 24. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
- 10:15-11:15 Meeting with **Mr. Fernando CLAVIJO BATLLE**, President of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands
(venue: Pl. Doctor Rafael O'Shanahan, 35004 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
- 11:45-13:00 Visit to the **First Arrivals Centre (CPLL - Canarias 50)**
(venue: C/Veintidós de mayo de 1986, s/n, 35008 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
- 13:15-14:30 Visit to the **Care, Emergency and Referral Centre (CAED Colegio León)**
(venue: Carretera subido al Lasso, s/n, 35016 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
- 14:45-15:45 Lunch
- 16:00-17:30 Joint meeting with IGO and NGO representatives *(venue: Presidency of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands)*
- **Mr. Marco NARDO**, Head of the UNHCR team in the Canary Islands
 - **Mr. Raul BAEZ** and **Ms. Laura PÉREZ**, Coordinator for the Red Cross in the Canary Islands
 - **Ms. Celia LIMPO JIMÉNEZ**, Representative of Save the Children.
 - **Mr. Juan Carlos LORENZO DE ARMAS**, Territorial Coordinator, Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance (CEAR)
 - **Mr. Francisco NAVARRO**, ACCEM representative in the Canary Islands
- 17:30-18:00 Debrief on the visit *(venue: Presidency of the Regional Government of the Canary Islands Pl. Doctor Rafael O'Shanahan, 35004 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)*

PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration:

1. Dr. Daniela DE RIDDER (Germany), Chair
2. Mr. Kemal ÇELİK (Türkiye), Vice-Chair
3. Mr. Kyriakos HADJIYIANNI (Cyprus), Vice-Chair
4. Ms. Farah KARIMI (The Netherlands), Vice-Chair
5. Ms. Gudrun KUGLER (Austria), Vice-Chair
6. Mr. Alessandro ALFIERI (Italy)
7. Ms. Canan BAYRAM (Germany)
8. Ms. Valérie BOYER (France)
9. Ms. Hedy FRY (Canada)
10. Mr. Artemi Vicent RALLO (Spain)
11. Ms. Liliana REIS (Portugal)
12. Baroness Rosie WINTERTON OF DONCASTER (United Kingdom)

Other MPs:

13. Mr. Pere Joan PONS (Spain), Vice-President of the OSCE PA (Madrid only)

Staff:

14. Mr. Gustavo PALLARES, OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General
15. Ms. Farimah DAFTARY, OSCE PA Senior Advisor
16. Ms. Mariana RODRIGUES, OSCE PA Research Assistant
17. Mr. Ignacio GUTIERREZ, Secretary of the Spanish delegation
18. Ms. Almudena LOPEZ GARRIDO, Staff of the Spanish Delegation
19. Ms. Ecem DANIK GOKCE, Secretary of the Turkish Delegation
20. Ms. Ayşe Köken, Embassy of Türkiye in Spain