

## **SPAIN - MOROCCO AND SUB-SAHARIAN COUNTRIES RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION**

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The Southern Member States of the Eu are the most affected by the increasing migration flows coming from the African continent by sea. From a geographical point of view, Spain is without doubt one of the principal destinations for immigrants. This situation has led Spain to adopt new political strategies not only with Morocco but with Sub-saharian countries too after Ceuta and Melilla assaults of 2005-2006.

With Morocco, Spain has signed on 1992, a bilateral Agreement regarding the circulation of people, the transit and the readmission of foreigners who enter illegally, with a complex procedure of readmission. This Agreement has entered into force on October 2012, 20 years later. Also, two countries, from 2006, has organised joint patrols from Almeria, in the Eastern Spanish coast, to Canary Islands, with not much success in practice.

With Sub-saharian countries, and based in bilateral agreements with a very discussed legal grounds, Spain has organised joint patrols operations too, but within the territorial waters of these third States. And these operations can be represent to extend the interception powers of Spain to maritime zones under the sovereignty of other States, with several legal questions of interest.

Finally, the last proposals of EU with Morocco and other Sub-saharian countries, don't seem to have the requested unanimity between European countries, because of a lack of solidarity in migration issues.