INSIGHT REPORT

Implications of migration surges: Outlook up to spring 2027

SEPTEMBER 2026

KEY JUDGEMENTS

- Localised surges in irregular migration, the movement of individuals across borders outside official immigration procedures or without the required legal authorisation, remain likely **until spring 2027**. **Spain** faces the highest risk of disruption, while **Italy**, **Greece** and the **Belarus-EU** frontier region remain key migration pressure points.
- For most organisations, the principal risks are likely to arise from national policy changes affecting workforce and security and border-control responses rather than migration flow itself.
- Migration incidents may trigger disproportionate political responses ahead of some key European elections, contributing to the continued normalisation of border controls across Europe.

OVERVIEW

A Europe-wide migration crisis remains unlikely. However, the July-August 2026 migration surge in irregular migration into Ceuta, the Spanish autonomous city and enclave on the North African coast, demonstrated how a localised border incident can rapidly evolve into a broader political issue. Its implications also extended well beyond the immediate area of arrivals. Further localised surges in irregular migration until spring 2027 could trigger border restrictions, transport disruption, enhanced security measures and policy responses affecting business operations.

INSIGHT REPORT
Europe - September 2026

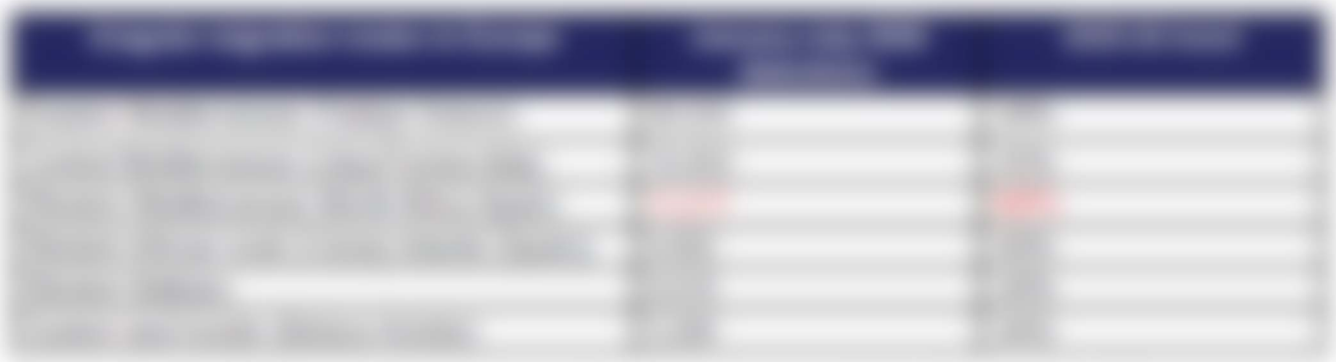
The political environment is likely to amplify migration-related risks. With elections approaching in several European countries, including Sweden and France, migration surges are likely to attract heightened political and media attention. This is despite data showing migration rates into Europe have decreased in 2026 compared with 2025.

The most likely scenario up to spring 2027 is a series of localised surges affecting established pressure points along Europe's external borders. Spain remains the most exposed location following the recent Ceuta crisis, while Italy and Greece continue to face sustained irregular migration pressure via Mediterranean routes. Separately, the Belarus-EU frontier remains vulnerable to irregular migration pressure linked to wider geopolitical tensions and hybrid-threat activity.

ASSESSMENT

Why Ceuta matters

Get in touch to have access to the full report



Lessons from Ceuta

OUTLOOK

Get in touch to have access to the full report

Autumn 2026

Get in touch to have access to the full report

Winter 2026-2027

Get in touch to have access to the full report

Spring 2027

[redacted]

Risk indicators to monitor

[redacted]

Get in touch to have access to the full report

INSIGHT REPORT

Europe - September 2026

INTERNATIONAL SOS

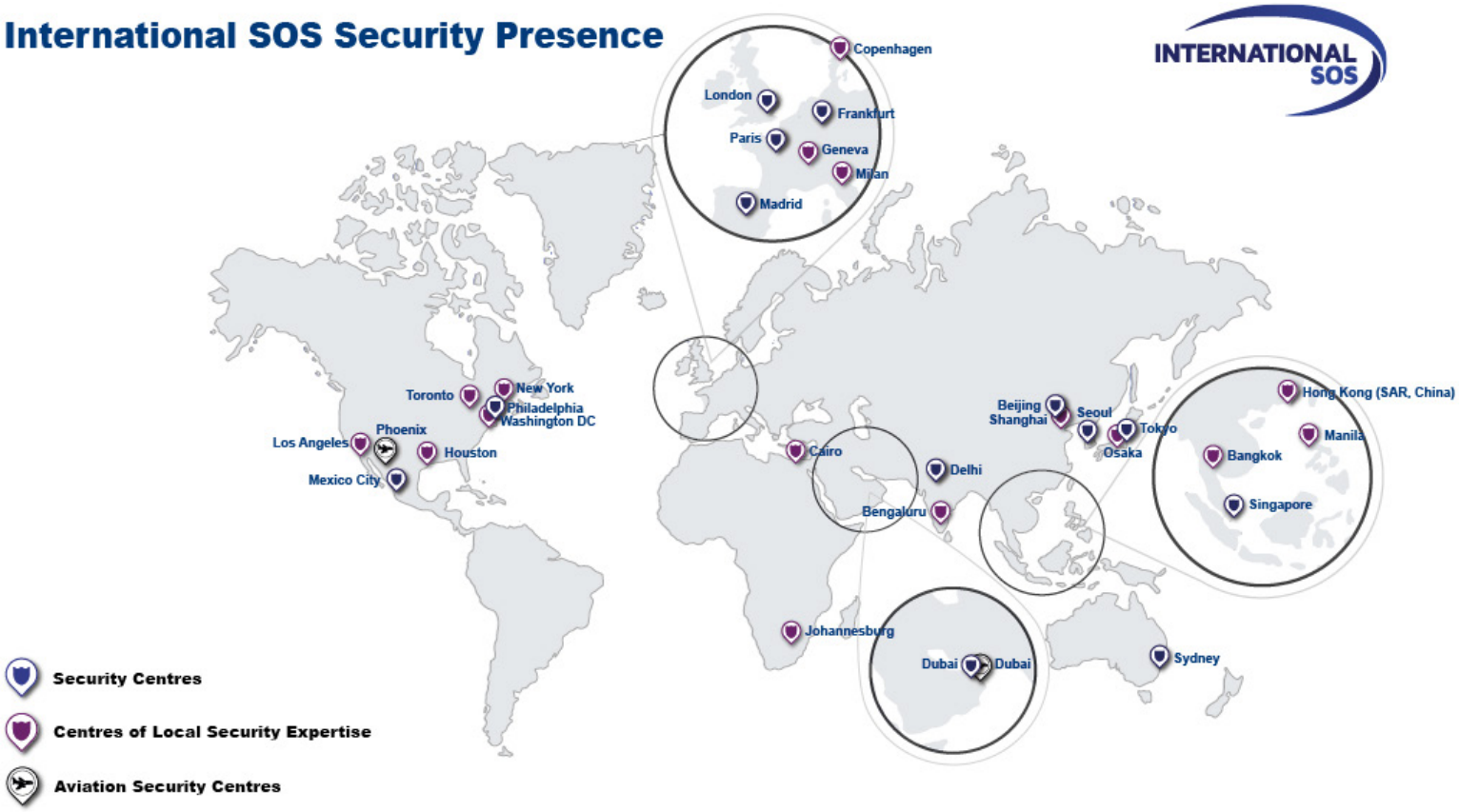
RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGERS

1. [illegible]
2. [illegible]
3. [illegible]
4. [illegible]
5. [illegible]
6. [illegible]
7. [illegible]
8. [illegible]

Get in touch to have access to the full report

ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS AND UNPARALLELED SERVICES

International SOS and its network of partners combine the world's leading security and medical risk specialists. With access to more than 3,200 security specialists led by our 200 dedicated security experts based in our Assistance Centres and offices around the world, we provide a comprehensive suite of integrated security risk services for the global workforce and managers tasked with keeping people safe, secure and healthy. We deliver timely, actionable security intelligence, analysis, advice and on-the-ground assistance.



For follow-up questions about the assessments or recommendations in this Report, please call your nearest Assistance Centre.

Copyright © International SOS, 2026. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part prohibited without the prior consent of the Company.