Government proposes extraordinary regularisation to integrate third country nationals living in Spain

The Spanish government has proposed a new Royal Decree to grant 1-year residence permit to third country nationals that:

- have lived in Spain with no authorisation for at least 5 months before the 31 December 2025.

In the case of applicants for international protection, those who have not receive a decision on their application or those to whom the protection have been denied will be able to apply for this new permit, as long as the application for international protection has been submitted before the end of 2025.

- do not have criminal records and should not pose a threat to public order.

The government expects to start receiving applications in April, once the Royal Decree enters into force, and till the end of June 2026.

Applicants granted with the residence permit will be able to work from the moment they receive the permit.

After one year, beneficiaries must apply for any other residence status established in the Spanish legislation.

Q&A about the new measure is available here.

Source(s)

- Government of Spain | La Moncloa (27 January, 2026), El Gobierno inicia un proceso de regularización extraordinaria de extranjeros que ya viven en España [The Government begins an extraordinary regularization process for foreigners already living in Spain], https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/consejodeministros/resumenes/paginas/2026/270126-rueda-de-prensa-ministros.aspx

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