

**Question for written answer E-009475/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Closure of the border between Morocco and Algeria

For the last 20 years the Algerian authorities have kept the border between Algeria and Morocco closed. The Western Sahara question is the main reason behind this closure.

The consequences are far-reaching in both human and economic terms.

On a human level, mixed families that have spanned the territorial boundaries for decades are now separated by the border.

On an economic level, the closure of the border alone is costing both Algeria and Morocco at least 1% of their GDP.

What steps is the Commission taking with a view to encouraging Algeria to re-open the border, and addressing the human and economic problems caused by the closure?