

**Question for written answer E-002364/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Destination of the European Union's aid programme for Morocco

On 16 December 2015, the United States Congress adopted the 2016 Financial Law. In the part concerning American aid to be provided to the Kingdom of Morocco, the law stipulates that the aid will be allocated across Morocco's entire territory, including the Western Sahara.

It is interesting to note that the reference to the 'Western Sahara' clearly appears in the 'Omnibus Spending Bill'. By this change in attitude, the Congress wishes to show strong support for a negotiated solution in the region.

The US Congress could also lay the groundwork for its businesses after encouraging private American investment in the 'Western Sahara'.

1. Bearing in mind current relations between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco, what measures does the EU plan to adopt to resume control and promote the reconciliation process in the region?
2. Has the European Union initiated a process to encourage businesses to invest in the region?