

**Question for written answer E-008351/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: CPMR and the Occupied Territories of Western Sahara

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) is an organisation established in 1973 with links to the institutions and programmes of the European Union. Its action focuses on all policies which have a high territorial impact, such as those regarding transport, agriculture and rural development, research and innovation and employment and social inclusion, in addition to fisheries policy and sustainable development.

The Kingdom of Morocco has used this forum, of which it is a member, to try to legitimise its occupation of Western Sahara. Thus, in 2014, it submitted a membership application for the 'region' of El Aaiún - Saguia al-Hamra and, at the 2016 conference, for Dajla, despite the fact that international law does not recognise it as having any authority over these areas, which belong to the territory of Western Sahara and are still waiting to be decolonised.

Does the Commission condemn the use being made by the Kingdom of Morocco of international organisations such as the CPMR in an attempt to legitimise its occupation of Western Sahara?

Will the Commission take action to suspend decisions taken within the framework of the CPMR when they affect the Occupied Territories of Western Sahara, in accordance with international law?