

Question for written answer E-001393/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Decision from the Court of Justice of the European Union on the Fisheries Agreement between the EU and Morocco

The Court of Justice of the European Union's decision of 27 February 2018 clearly states – as it did in its judgment of December 2016 – that the Fisheries Agreement between the EU and Morocco is not applicable to Western Sahara or its adjacent waters. Such an agreement would breach international law and the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination, who are legally represented by the Front Polisario.

The current four-year-old fisheries agreement, that expires in July, entails a payment of EUR 40 million to Morocco in exchange for access to waters for some 120 European boats – most of which are from France and Spain. Approximately 80% of fish catches recorded by Morocco take place in waters that belong to the Western Sahara maritime area.

What impact will the ruling have on the current negotiations on renewing the fisheries agreement? Has the High Representative made any contact with the Front Polisário, or does she intend to do so? The Front Polisario demands an annual payment of EUR 240 million by applying the judgment of December 2016 relating to the 2000 Partnership Agreement and the 2012 Free Trade Agreement.