

**Question for written answer E-005151/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Agreement with Morocco

On 27 February 2018, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that the future fisheries agreement between the EU and Morocco was valid. The Court took the view that the agreement was applicable only to waters under Moroccan sovereignty or jurisdiction, stating that, because Western Sahara does not form part of the Kingdom of Morocco, its waters 'are not part of the Moroccan fishing zone'.

The CJEU's ruling gave rise to a great deal of uncertainty, chiefly in Spain, not only because catches in the waters concerned account for 91.5% of the total fishing envisaged, but also because it jeopardises the fishing activities of the hundred-strong Spanish fleet from Andalusia, the Canary Islands and Galicia that fishes in the areas concerned.

The new agreement reached in July, however, includes an explicit reference to the waters adjacent to Western Sahara, and mentions the need to distribute the economic and social impact of fishing activity among the population of the area.

In this context, what legal arrangements did the Commission use to conclude the negotiations?