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Answer given by Ms Malmström
on behalf of the European Commission
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Morocco is one of the European Union's closest partners in the southern neighbourhood on a wide range of issues. The partnership with Morocco is a long-term strategic engagement for the EU. The EU values not only its bilateral relations with Morocco, but also the country's regional and international role, which makes it an important ally.

In its trade agreements, the EU includes provisions which facilitate the professional mobility of a wide range of highly skilled and highly qualified business persons.

As regards technology transfer, trade agreements concluded by the EU often contain provisions on cooperation in the field of "technology transfer, innovation and R&D" (Article 45 of the EU-Egypt Association Agreement), "research in science and technology" (Article 45 of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement) or "technological innovation and the transfer of new technology and know-how" (Article 47 of the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement).

Such trade agreements cannot be compared to the EU's Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, which provide for access to fishing operations by EU flagged vessels in the waters that are under its sovereignty or the jurisdiction of a partner country. Such access is granted against payment of a financial compensation and other benefits from the EU side, including provisions aimed at developing the partner country's fisheries sector such as employment related provisions.