



Plenary sitting

B9-0225/2020

9.7.2020

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 143 of the Rules of Procedure

on EU humanitarian aid to the Polisario Front

Dominique Bilde, Bernhard Zimniok, Gianna Gancia

B9-0225/2020

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on EU humanitarian aid to the Polisario Front

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union,
 - having regard to Article 214 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rule 143 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Polisario Front ('Polisario') was founded in 1973 and has established its base in Tindouf Province, Algeria, where it runs a number of refugee camps;
- B. whereas a report from the European Union's Anti-Fraud Office, published in 2015, found that EU humanitarian aid granted to Polisario¹, which totalled EUR 105 million between 1994 and 2004², had been misappropriated for purposes such as arms purchases;
- C. whereas Algeria is said to have levied a 5 % tax on this aid³ and reportedly denied the requests that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees filed in 1977, 2003, 2005 and 2015 to carry out a census of the refugee population⁴;
1. Calls on the European Union to work together with the United Nations to oversee a census of the refugees in the Tindouf camps, with the cooperation of the Algerian authorities;
 2. Calls on the European Union to audit Polisario's use of EU humanitarian aid since 2015.

¹ 'In 2015 Agence France-Presse (AFP) first reported that it had obtained the above-mentioned report which covered a four-year investigation (2003-2007) by the European Union's Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) documenting "well-organised, years-long" embezzlement by the Polisario Front of humanitarian aid designated for Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.' <https://eutoday.net/news/politics/2020/tindouf-camps-in-algeria>

² <https://www.senat.fr/questions/base/2015/qSEQ150616595.html>

³ 'This was confirmed in a hearing in the European Parliament's budgetary control committee in July 2015, an official mentioned that Algeria imposes taxes of 5% of the then annual €10 million in humanitarian aid to the Tindouf Camps', <https://eutoday.net/news/politics/2020/tindouf-camps-in-algeria>

⁴ 'Both Algeria and Polisario have consistently opposed any census in the Tindouf camps despite formal requests by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in 1977, 2003, 2005 and 2015', <https://eutoday.net/news/politics/2020/tindouf-camps-in-algeria>