

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0083/03
by Carlos Bautista Ojeda (Verts/ALE)
to the Council

Subject: EU/Morocco policies

Bearing in mind that Andalusia is among the EU regions with the highest unemployment, is the Council aware that, in one way or another, all the negotiations conducted with Morocco in recent years in whatever field – agriculture, fisheries or diplomatic matters, immigration and drug trafficking – directly affect Andalusia, either in economic or social terms or in terms of its image in the outside world?

Does the Council not consider it necessary that the EU should consult or at least ascertain the opinion of the Andalusian authorities and government with regard to negotiations in these specific cases?

Is the Council familiar with the political landscape in Andalusia? Is it aware of the level of on-going confrontation between the autonomous and state governments in Spain? Is the Council aware that many of its decisions deepen the political breach between the two levels of administration and that this breach is already having direct adverse effects on Andalusia's development and economy?

Does the Council not believe that many of its decisions are having a negative impact on the development of a region whose unemployment rate is among the highest in the EU?

I should be grateful not to receive a reply based on the European Union's lack of competence in these matters, on the grounds that each Member State is responsible for relations with its regions. Seven and a half million Andalusians – and Europeans – are tired of being used as a bargaining counter for the EU in its agricultural and fisheries negotiations with Morocco.