

**Question for written answer E-001282/2016  
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Census of those living in the camps around Tindouf

The people living in the camps around Tindouf in Algeria have never been registered, nor has a census been conducted by the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), despite calls made in UN resolutions, recommendations by the UNHCR Executive Committee and the 2013 European Commission discharge, as adopted by the European Parliament on 29 April 2015. This situation is having a serious impact as regards the protection of the people who have been living in the camps in terrible humanitarian conditions for four decades now. At the same time, the estimates used by the UNHCR and DG ECHO have not changed since 2007, and their credibility is seriously in doubt.

At the Budgetary Control Committee meeting of 21 January 2016, the Council emphasised the need for a census to be conducted in the camps around Tindouf.

1. What action has the Council taken in response to the requests that Parliament made in the 2013 Commission discharge, in particular in paragraph 241?
2. What action is the EU taking at the UN to promote a political solution to the conflict in Western Sahara?
3. Have forward studies been carried out on what consequences the status quo in the conflict will have for security in Europe?