

Question for written answer E-004815/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE) and Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network denied access to Algeria

On 23 May 2016, the EMHRN – a network of more than 80 human rights organisations based in 30 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean area – issued a press release on its website in which it criticised the decision to deny it access to Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria.

The EMHRN had planned to visit the camps from 6 to 12 March 2016; because visas were not issued on time, however, a second attempt at organising a visit had to be made, this time from 7 to 14 May 2016. This visit did not take place either, because two members of the party were denied visas. The EMHRN now hopes to be granted the requisite visas and authorisations so that it can visit the Sahrawi refugee camps in October 2016.

Is the High Representative aware of the problems encountered by the EMHRN and other organisations seeking to gain access to the refugee camps in Tindouf?

Will she raise this issue at the next meeting of the EU-Algeria Association Council?