

**Question for written answer E-000812/2017/rev.2
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Linnéa Engström (Verts/ALE), Bodil Valero (Verts/ALE), Max Andersson (Verts/ALE), Klaus Buchner (Verts/ALE), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD), Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL), João Ferreira (GUE/NGL), Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL), Rina Ronja Kari (GUE/NGL), Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL), Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL), Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL) and Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Increased EU fishing in Western Sahara under the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement

The European Court of Justice ruled in case C-104/16 P – *Council vs Front Polisario* that Western Sahara is not part of the sovereign territory of Morocco and that, following the principles of self-determination and of relative effect of treaties, the EU-Morocco Association and Liberalisation Agreements could not apply to Western Sahara without the consent of the people of Western Sahara.

On 7 April 2016, the Commission adopted Decision (EU) 2016/547, modifying the 2013 EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA), in order to increase the fishing capacity of EU vessels belonging to categories 4 and 6 under that agreement. However, according to the last available report of the EU-Morocco Joint Scientific Committee, these categories of EU vessels are fishing exclusively in Sahrawi waters.

Did the people of Western Sahara consent to this modification of the EU-Morocco FPA?

Does the Commission consider this amendment to the EU-Morocco FPA to be compatible with the principles of self-determination and of the relative effect of treaties or the obligations of the EU under international humanitarian law?

[Question supported by Members other than the author(s)¹]

¹ Question supported by Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL), João Pimenta Lopes (GUE/NGL)