

**Question for written answer E-000566/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Budget support for Morocco

Over the period 2014-2020, the EU provided a total of EUR 1 399 million in development assistance to Morocco.

The European Court of Auditors has now assessed whether the Commission effectively managed budget support for the priority sectors in Morocco for the period 2014-2018 and whether the objectives were met. Budget support amounting to EUR 562 million was contracted, and EUR 206 million was disbursed. Auditors report that this has so far had limited impact. In addition, the Commission allocated funds to sectoral programmes using a method which was not transparent. There are no stringent checks when results are being assessed. In some cases, payments have been made in spite of a failure to achieve the objectives, and even when the situation has worsened.

The UN Human Rights Committee recommended that Morocco combat violence against women and promote gender equality, but Morocco largely refused to do this. The human rights situation overall has worsened. There are restrictive media laws and internet censorship, and there is no longer freedom of assembly ¹.

How will the Commission justify to the European taxpayer the fact that this financial support from the EU was provided with no effective checks or accountability?

How does it justify this funding in the light of a worsening of the human rights situation?

Will the Commission make future funding conditional on a significant improvement in the human rights situation and gender equality?

¹ European Court of Auditors, EU support to Morocco – Limited results so far, Special Report No 09/2019, pp. 4-5, 7-9, 14, 37, 42, 44.