

**Question for written answer E-001690/2021**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: Relaunch of UN Western Sahara peace process

Almost two years after the resignation of Horst Köhler, Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara, the post remains vacant. In a press briefing of 4 March 2021<sup>1</sup>, his spokesman stated that no new candidate was currently being considered.

However, former Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman had already announced to the press his intention of standing for the post<sup>2</sup>. That was in January, when the UN process for a political settlement of the Western Sahara regional conflict had come to a halt. This delay is all the more regrettable, especially following the encouraging progress made by all stakeholders at two round tables chaired by Horst Köhler in December 2018 and March 2019.

In view of this:

1. Can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) indicate which stakeholder (s) rejected Petre Roman's candidacy and why?
2. What is the EU doing to help relaunch the UN peace process in line with the UN Security Council parameters set out in its latest Resolution 2548 (2020)<sup>3</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> [www.un.org/press/en/2021/db210304.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2021/db210304.doc.htm)

<sup>2</sup> [www.digi24.ro/stiri/externe/petre-roman-provoaca-un-scandal-international-in-sahara-de-vest-fostul-premier-si-a-facut-lobby-sa-fie-trimis-special-al-onu-1431888](http://www.digi24.ro/stiri/externe/petre-roman-provoaca-un-scandal-international-in-sahara-de-vest-fostul-premier-si-a-facut-lobby-sa-fie-trimis-special-al-onu-1431888)

<sup>3</sup> [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2532\(2020\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2532(2020))