

Question for written answer E-003781/2021

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

Rule 138

François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: European Union position on the Chagos Archipelago

In the 'Union declaration on Chagos Archipelago/British Indian Ocean Territory', adopted on 1 June 2021, the European Union declares that 'the reference to the British Indian Ocean Territory in paragraph 4 of Article 774 of the [EU-EAEC-UK Trade and Cooperation] Agreement is to be interpreted and implemented in full respect of applicable international law'.

This declaration is consistent with case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, according to which the EU must respect people's right to self-determination as a condition guaranteeing world peace (judgments C 104/16 P, Council / Front Polisario, C-266/16, Western Sahara Campaign UK and C-363/18 Organisation juive européenne and Vignoble Psagot).

1. Why does the EU refer to 'British Indian Ocean Territory', which is the terminology used in the United Kingdom's domestic law, when the only denomination for this region that complies with international law and with the United Nations' official position is 'Chagos Archipelago'?
2. What effect will this declaration have in practice when it is already stated in paragraph 4 of Article 774 of the Agreement in question that the Agreement does not apply to this territory?