

Question for written answer E-003782/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Reaction to the Commission's answer regarding the use of children and minors by Morocco to storm the Spanish border at Ceuta

In its answer to my question E-002734/2021¹, the Commission pointed out that 'it cannot monitor [...] eventual breaches by Morocco of its obligations under the Convention' on the Rights of the Child, but stressed that 'respect for fundamental rights' is reflected in the 2019 EU-Morocco Declaration².

The Declaration refers to the 'convergence of values' as being one of the pillars of bilateral relations and specifically mentions 'alignment' around human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as developing opportunities for young people. Instead of which, the Moroccan authorities continue to attack human rights defenders³.

Furthermore, the Commission explains that 'accountability of EU projects remains extremely high', and that it has 'put in place a system for monitoring to ensure efficient implementation of EU funds, including the respect of human rights according to international standards'. This is not, however, the opinion of the Court of Auditors⁴.

1. What does the monitoring system the Commission mentions consist of and how exactly does it ensure that human rights are respected in Morocco?
2. Why was the breach of the Convention on the Rights of the Child not deemed to be a reason for reconsidering the implementation of EU funds?

1 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-002734-ASW_EN.html

2 <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/27/joint-declaration-by-the-european-union-and-the-kingdom-of-morocco-for-the-fourteenth-meeting-of-the-association-council/>

3 UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders. Article published on 1 July 2021.
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27244&LangID=E>

4 https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR19_09/SR_Morocco_EN.pdf