

**Question for written answer E-004404/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jordi Cañas** (Renew)

**Subject:** Request for an answer to question E-003151/2021 on fraud in the labelling of tomatoes produced in Western Sahara and sold as produce of Morocco

On 13 September 2021, the Commission answered question for a written answer E-003151/2021<sup>1</sup> on possible fraud in the labelling of tomatoes produced in Western Sahara and sold as produce of Morocco<sup>2</sup>.

Its answer is completely unsatisfactory and unacceptable: it does not give a proper response and it dismisses the claims made by the European agricultural and retail sectors, NGOs, civil society and MEPs on a number of occasions.

It shows a lack of political commitment to addressing and investigating the problems reported by Parliament and a lack of respect and deference towards MEPs, whose role is to represent people and hold the Commission to account.

Instead of supporting and investigating the claims made by the European sector and producers, the Commission is evading its responsibilities and has failed to answer or carry out the requisite investigations, voluntarily taking a position in favour of and defending the Moroccan authorities<sup>3</sup>, which, given their stakes in the companies involved in the illegal production and sale of tomatoes from Western Sahara, are complicit in this state of affairs.

Against this backdrop and taking into account the evidence on alleged fraudulent practices:

1. I would ask the Commission the same questions raised in E-003151/2021 again.
2. Will the Commission provide a proper and reasoned answer to those questions?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-003151\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-003151_EN.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oF6Qq1n1JBk2harlQjYrQb0tXFvSq7bA/view>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lesiteinfo.com/maroc/tomates-produites-au-sahara-lue-prend-la-defense-du-maroc/>