

**Question for written answer E-004981/2021**

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

Rule 138

**José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)**

Subject: Risk of armed conflict between Morocco and Algeria

Tensions between Morocco and Algeria have escalated in recent months. This has already had a knock-on effect on Spain, in the wake of the closure of the Magreb gas pipeline.

In the past few hours, Algeria has accused Morocco of assassinating three Algerian citizens in a bombing attack on a convoy travelling between Nouakchott and Ouargla. Algeria has already announced it will retaliate.

If in the end these tensions escalate into open conflict, the risks to Spain and the whole of the European Union will be very serious: from heavier migratory flows and a decline in law and order in the Sahel, to a direct threat to energy supplies and to air and sea routes that cross the western Mediterranean, to say nothing of the proximity of the Spanish – and EU – cities of Ceuta and Melilla to this hypothetical conflict scenario.

In light of the above:

1. What measures have the Vice-President / High Representative and the European External Action Service taken or planned to prevent this conflict between Morocco and Algeria from escalating?
2. What measures have they taken or do they plan to take to protect the EU's security and interests should hostilities break out in the Magreb?