

EN

E-005271/2021

Answer given by Mr Sinkevičius
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.3.2022)

The Commission confirms its commitment to the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement and the agreement in form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Morocco on the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement. On 14 December 2021, the Commission lodged an appeal¹ against the judgements of the General Court annulling the Council decisions on the conclusion of the above-mentioned agreements². Moreover, the Council of the EU lodged similar appeals on 16 December 2021³. It is to be recalled that the General Court's judgement maintained, in the case of an appeal, the effects of the Council Decisions until the European Court of Justice would deliver its judgement on the appeals. Therefore, the implementation of the agreements will continue during this period but, beyond that, the situation will of course depend on the Court of Justice's final judgement on the appeals. Member States are also aware of that and have informed their respective operators.

As the Commission noted in its reply to written question E-5/20⁴, the EU position concerning Western Sahara is guided by the resolutions of the United Nations (UN) Security Council and remains that Western Sahara is a non-self-governing territory, whose final status will be determined by the outcome of the ongoing UN-led process. Meanwhile, the EU recalls its support to the UN Secretary-General's efforts to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

¹ Cases C-778/21P and C-779/21P.

² Council decision (EU) 2019/441, OJ L 77, 20.03.2019, p. 4-7 and Council decision (EU) 2019/217, OJ L 34, 06.02.2019, p. 1-3.

³ Cases C-798/21P and C-799/21P.

⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-000005-ASW_EN.html