

**Question for written answer E-005271/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Massimiliano Salini (PPE)

Subject: Polisario threats against European companies

On 29 September 2021 the General Court of the EU published its first instance judgments on cases T-279/19, T-344/19 and T-356/19, annulling the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement and parts of the EU-Morocco Trade Agreement, but allowing their continued application pending appeal.

These judgments could be easily overturned on appeal, yet the claimant in these cases (the Polisario Front) unjustifiably called on the EU institutions to immediately give effect to the rulings and threatened companies, in particular European businesses, with compensation claims, other legal actions and further attacks on their reputation.

Given that European business and sectoral associations¹² have expressed their support for the agreements and partnership with Morocco, and that the local economy relies heavily on the functioning of the agreements:

1. Can the Commission confirm that it will do its utmost to protect the agreements and the socio-economic development they sustain – both locally and in Europe?
2. Can the Commission confirm to investors and businesses in the region that their legal situation remains unchanged?
3. Can the Commission clarify to businesses that they do not face legal action in EU courts for benefiting from the agreements?

¹ <https://europeche.chil.me/post/euro-moroccan-fishing-sector-united-to-address-court-decision-annulling-eu-moroc-367854>

² <https://www.businesseurope.eu/publications/mediterranean-opportunity-companies-call-eu-and-morocco-strengthen-ties>