

**Question for written answer E-003923/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Brice Hortefeux (PPE)

Subject: Links between Polisario and terrorist groups in the Sahel and Sahara

The situation in the Sahel and Sahara has dramatically worsened in recent years, and now poses a threat to regional and international stability. The region is faced with an alarming increase in illicit arms, contraband and terrorism.

There are indications that Polisario, which controls certain no-go areas, is in league with terrorist groups, supplying them with weapons and logistical support, including fuel.

These links between Polisario and terrorist groups are nothing new. The founders of the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, Abu Walid and Abu al-Sahrawi, were Polisario fighters.

In addition, the Commission pays significant amounts to the Sahrawi camps controlled by Polisario.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to audit the funding provided to these Sahrawi camps to ascertain that it is being used only to achieve humanitarian goals?
2. What measures will the Commission take to prevent potential collaboration between Polisario and terrorist groups?

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