

Question for written answer E-000933/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Boycott of Spanish companies in Algeria

In 2022, Algeria unilaterally suspended its Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation with Spain, owing to the Spanish Government's change in position on the Western Sahara conflict. This decision has so far led to losses of EUR 1 086.7 million for Spanish companies and the greatest trade imbalance in the relations between the two countries since records began. Most of the companies affected are SMEs that deliver manufactured goods, as well as large agri-food, technology and infrastructure companies.

Against this background, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the European Union, Josep Borrell, called on Algeria to put an end to the trade barriers imposed on Spain, as these jeopardise the Association Agreement between the EU and the Maghreb country. The Commission, however, has not put in place any actual measures to reverse this situation.

In light of Mr Borrell's statements, I should like to ask the following questions:

1. What measures will the Commission take to protect the European companies concerned, most of which are SMEs?
2. Will the Commission take measures to protect and implement the Association Agreement between the EU and Algeria?

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