

**Question for written answer E-001451/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Morocco's removal from the Financial Action Task Force grey list and the Commission's position

New information has emerged regarding the July 2021 dismissal of Spain's former foreign affairs minister Arancha González Laya following continued pressure by Morocco's ambassador to Spain, Karima Benyaich<sup>1</sup>.

The former minister's dismissal came after she agreed to allow Polisario leader Brahim Ghali to be hospitalised in Spain, a decision that angered Morocco, and after Morocco potentially used Pegasus spyware on the Spanish Government. Even though González Laya asked Commissioner McGuinness to intercede regarding Morocco's removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list as a *quid pro quo* to appease Morocco, while keeping her Moroccan counterpart informed of her actions, it was all to no avail. Prime Minister Sánchez dismissed González Laya, and Morocco was removed from the FATF grey list<sup>2</sup> in February 2023.

1. Can the Commission confirm that the Spanish Government did not intervene in the delisting process and that the decision to delist Morocco was made solely on the basis of its compliance with FATF regulations?
2. Given the Morocco-Spain crisis that occurred in July 2021, what steps did the Commission take to ensure that political considerations did not influence the decision to delist Morocco from the FATF?
3. Will the Commission investigate Morocco's interference in Spain's and the EU's decision-making process?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/2023-04-19/sanchez-destituyo-gonzalez-laya-ministra-despues-peticion-marruecos\\_3613550/](https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/2023-04-19/sanchez-destituyo-gonzalez-laya-ministra-despues-peticion-marruecos_3613550/).

<sup>2</sup> <https://baselgovernance.org/publications/basel-aml-index-briefing-moroccos-delisting-fatf-grey-list>.