

**Question for written answer E-003588/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Thierry Mariani (ID)

Subject: Terrorist attacks in Smara

The Polisario Front attacked the city of Smara in the Sahara region on 29 October and 4 November 2023. It subsequently claimed responsibility for these barbaric acts, which were aimed solely at the civilian population and caused several injuries and deaths. This situation poses a risk to stability of the region, and this could cause collateral damage for EU Member States.

Different sources have highlighted the possible links between the Polisario Front and Islamist terrorist groups. In fact, the founder of the Islamic State – Sahel Province, Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahrawi, used to fight for the Polisario Front.

The Polisario Front receives humanitarian aid from the EU to manage refugee camps in Tindouf in the south-west of Algeria, which are exclusively controlled by the Polisario Front.

With the above in mind:

1. Does the Commission consider the attacks against civilians in Smara to be acts of terrorism?
2. Is the Commission considering suspending funding for the refugee camps in the south-west of Algeria, which are solely controlled and managed by the Polisario Front?

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