

**Question for written answer E-000999/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Manu Pineda (The Left)

Subject: Moroccan military threat in Western Saharan waters and the infringement of EU law

On 21 March 2024, the EU Advocate General recommended that the EU-Morocco fisheries agreement be suspended for including Western Saharan waters in the agreement¹. The Advocate General, the General Court of the EU and the UN have all reiterated that Sahrawi waters and territory should be treated as 'separate and distinct' from Morocco since Western Sahara is a non-self-governing territory awaiting decolonisation.

A few days later, social media revealed that Morocco had begun military manoeuvres in these waters. This is a serious issue as these waters do not legally belong to Morocco and are located next to the European sea border (Canary Islands). These military manoeuvres are clearly a response to the Opinion of the Advocate General and could also impact Spanish and European maritime security.

In the light of the above:

1. Was the Commission formally notified of these manoeuvres?
2. What is the Commission's view on Morocco initiating manoeuvres in territorial waters that do not belong to it shortly after the a pronouncement to the contrary by the European Advocate General?
3. What measures should the Commission adopt in the face of these illegal manoeuvres in Saharan waters?

Submitted: 3.4.2024

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:62021CC0778>.