ORAL QUESTION H-0894/02 for Question Time at the part-session in March 2003 pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure by Yasmine Boudjenah to the Council

Subject: Situation in Western Sahara

The Council presidency issued a statement on Western Sahara on 29 December 1998. Since then there has been a stalemate, not least because of obstructive manoeuvring by the Moroccan Government, aimed at preventing a referendum from being held. The absence of a just settlement of the conflict is affecting stability throughout the Maghreb region.

Is the Council determined to take a strong initiative, for example by adopting a new statement, in order to relaunch the peace process and bring about 'the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum on the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara' (in accordance with the commitment made by the Council presidency in December 1998)?

Tabled: 18.12.2002

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