

ORAL QUESTION H-0079/09
for Question Time at the part-session in March I 2009
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Jens Holm
to the Commission

Subject: Fisheries agreement between EU and Morocco

The fisheries agreement concluded between the EU and Morocco in 2006 covers the occupied areas of Western Sahara. The agreement authorises Morocco to sell fishing licences not only in its waters but also in Western Sahara. The UN had already made clear in 2002 that, as an occupying power, Morocco does not have the right to sell Western Sahara's natural resources for its own gain but only in consultation with and for the benefit of the Sahrawi people.

Can the Commission say how many fishing licences have been sold specifically for the Western Sahara region to European vessels since the conclusion of the agreement? What is financial value of those licences? At a very practical level, how, in the Commission's estimation, has the agreement benefited the Sahrawi people?

Tabled: 29.01.2009
sv