Priority question for written answer P-000521/2022
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy
Rule 138
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Participation of the Polisario in the EU-African Union Summit

Ahead of the EU-African Union summit that will take place on 17 and 18 February 2022, the EU will
take the opportunity to promote flagships projects and initiatives and to strengthen its strategic
partnerships with Africa. This gathering will also be an occasion to promote our values and principles
relating to human rights and democracy.

In this regard, the camps in Tindouf controlled by the Polisario, according to various reports, are the
scene of numerous human rights violations and have become a breeding ground for the recruitment
of young people by organised crime and jihadist networks operating in the Sahelo-Saharan zone. This
situation is aggravating the instability of a strategic region for the EU.

1. How could the EU welcome leaders of the armed separatist Polisario group, some of whom, in
addition to the embezzlement of EU funds¹, are being prosecuted in a Member State of the
European Union, for despicable crimes such as rape, forcible confinement, torture and execution,
and on top of that, identity theft?

2. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy aware of these serious facts for which the leaders of the Polisario – which is
supported, armed and financed by Algeria – have been accused?

¹ 2015 report of the European Anti-Fraud Office.