

Priority question for written answer P-002838/2022

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Nicolas Bay (NI)

Subject: Polisario Front attending the EU-AU summit

The goal of the EU-AU summit was to renew the partnership between the two continents by addressing serious challenges, especially in the areas of security and migration.

It is well known that criminal and jihadist networks operating in the Sahel-Sahara region recruit young people from the Tindouf camps¹² run by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, fuelling the instability of this region which is of strategic importance for the EU.

Furthermore, several Polisario officials are currently facing proceedings before Member State courts for serious crimes³⁴ and for torturing dissidents⁵.

The fact that the Polisario Front has been misappropriating EU humanitarian aid has also been flagged numerous times, including in Parliament⁶.

1. Why did the VP/HR and EEAS agree to having the Polisario Front attend the next EU-AU summit?
2. Will they ask the Polisario officials in question to answer for the criminal acts they are accused of?
3. Finally, will they take a serious look at the Polisario Front's activities and adopt a strong diplomatic stance towards the group?

1 <http://www.esisc.org/publications/analyses/le-front-polisario-et-le-developpement-du-terrorisme-au-sahel>

2 <https://www.senate.be/www/?Mlval=/Vragen/SVPrint&LEG=5&NR=3858&LANG=fr>

3 <https://www.mediapart.fr/journal/fil-dactualites/290921/espagne-la-justice-rouvre-un-dossier-visant-le-chef-du-polisario-apres-un-vice-de-procedure?onglet=full>

4 <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20211117-maroc-l-espagne-extrade-un-activiste-du-front-polisario-r%C3%A9clam%C3%A9-par-rabat?ref=wa>

5 <https://www.rfi.fr/en/afrique/20210601-polisario-leader-questioned-in-spain-over-torture-allegations-western-sahara-morocco>

6 https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/01/23/bruxelles-accuse-alger-de-detournements-d-aide-humanitaire_4562455_3212.html