

**Priority question for written answer P-001763/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Response to Morocco regarding the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla

On 17 May 2023, the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a diplomatic depeche censuring the Vice-President of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas, for referring to the two North African autonomous cities, Ceuta and Melilla, as the borders of Spain and the European Union.

The annex to the verbal note of protest sent by the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the EU Delegation in Rabat referred to some ten statements by Mr Schinas on 'the Moroccan cities of Ceuta and Melilla' which it considered to be 'hostile declarations'. In response, the Spanish Government has formally complained to Rabat.

In light of the above:

1. Has there been an explicit response from the Vice-President / High Representative or the European Commission, and Mr Schinas himself, to the Moroccan authorities? In what terms exactly?
2. Does the Commission consider the language used by a partner such as Morocco to refer to the two autonomous Spanish cities to be acceptable? Does it intend to review in any way the application of the terms of the partnership with Morocco in light of these developments?

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