

**Priority question for written answer P-002250/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D)**

**Subject:** Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and Tunisia

As reported in the recent press statement by President of the Commission von der Leyen with Tunisian President Saied, Dutch Prime Minister Rutte and Italian Prime Minister Meloni in Tunis, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 'a strategic and comprehensive partnership' between the EU and Tunisia was signed on 16 July 2023.

This MoU is purportedly built upon five pillars – people-to-people contacts, economic development, investment and trade, energy and migration – and comes with the promise of substantial EU funding.

1. What is the reason for this particular format involving two specific prime ministers – of Italy and Netherlands in this case – and signed by Commissioner Varhelyi?
2. What is the nature and legal basis of this MoU and what is the involvement of other EU institutions in it? (specifically, has the European External Action Service been involved in its preparation and what role is envisaged for the European Parliament?).
3. Has the Commission considered the political consequences of a deal that reinforces an autocrat's rule over the Tunisian people while including no conditionality regarding human rights?

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