

**Question for written answer E-015473/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)**

Subject:     Spoliation of Western Saharan resources

In its response to written question P-013576/2015 the Commission justified maintaining the EU-Morocco bilateral agreement on account of the supposed benefits for the Saharan population arising from the colonial exploitation of their resources, referring to UN position S/2002/161.

However, the response overlooks the fact that that document concludes by noting that the 'interests and wishes of the people of Western Sahara' are a fundamental condition governing the legality of any economic involvement in the territory.

It also overlooks the fact that the Kingdom of Morocco is not the *de jure* administrative power in Western Sahara within the meaning of Article 73 of the UN Charter, and that therefore any agreement concluded with the Kingdom of Morocco for the exploitation of Saharan resources violates international law.

Is the Commission aware that the Kingdom of Morocco has the status of occupying power in Western Sahara, rather than administrative power?

Does it therefore accept that the exploitation of Saharan resources by the Kingdom of Morocco in the context of that country's bilateral relations with the EU is illegal under international law?

How will the Commission ensure respect for the principle of self-determination for the Saharan people in the framework of the current MINURSO mandate?