



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS

Brussels,
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Sara Eyckmans
Coordinator Western Sahara
Resource Watch
coordinator@wsrw.org

Subject: Fishery Partnership Agreement EU/Morocco

Dear Ms Eyckmans,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2010 on the Fishery Partnership Agreement between the EU and Morocco to Commissioner Damanaki, who asked me to reply on her behalf.

Regarding the compliance of the current Agreement with international law, and the legal opinion of the European Parliament mentioned in your letter, we would like to reiterate that in his letter of 2002, Mr Corell, concluded that (economic) activities in a Non-Self-Governing Territory by an administering Power are illegal "only if conducted in disregard of the needs and interests of the people of that Territory". This opinion was taken into consideration when negotiating the agreement in 2006.

I would like to confirm that the position of Mr Landaburu, Head of European Delegation to Morocco, reflects the position of the European Commission, highlighted above.

Finally, as to your question on our views on the report on the impact of the Fishery Partnership Agreement on the Western Sahara, I would like to confirm that the European Commission has not received any such report and therefore cannot comment on it.

In the meantime, the Commission remains of the view that the activities implemented in the framework of the Agreement in the Western Sahara may have a positive effect on the Western Sahara economy, for example through landing of catches, embarkation of local seamen, and use of local ports.

Best regards,


Pierre AMILHAT
Director