



Strasbourg, 12/11/2018

Regarding the EU-Morocco Trade Liberalization Agreement

Dear President Tajani,

I would like to bring to your attention a serious incident of undue pressure by a diplomatic mission in relation to the forthcoming vote in our committee on the EU-Morocco Trade Liberalization Agreement in relation to Western Sahara (Rapporteur Michel Dantin).

In an official letter sent to my attention on 29 October 2018, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco accredited to Austria, His Excellency Lotfi Bouchaara denounces "hostile amendments" on the above-mentioned opinion.

The Ambassador lists 36 amendments which he states as "politically motivated", "obviously unjustified and neither helpful nor constructive" and that "don't even deal with matters falling within the AGRI Committee's field of competence".

Recalling the partnership between the EU and Morocco, explicitly referring to cooperation in the field of the fight against terrorism, migratory flows and security issues and recalling "the importance of preserving the constructive spirit of cooperation between the EU and Morocco", he presses me to "vote against all these unproductive amendments".

The amendments in question were tabled by MEPs from the following groups: EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL and NI.

I understand that similar letters were sent to other fellow members of the Agriculture Committee.

I consider that this letter constitutes a serious assault against the independence of my mandate as enshrined in Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament. I also consider that such an extraordinary behaviour violates the EU code of conduct, notably the obligation "not to obtain or try to obtain decisions dishonestly or by use of undue pressure or inappropriate behaviour".

Moreover, I find it unacceptable that a diplomatic mission would question, in writing, the technical and political appropriateness of amendments tabled by Members of the Parliament and seek to influence the outcome of a vote at committee level.

Based on the above, I would be grateful if you could urgently consider this matter and take all the appropriate measures, as warranted by the gravity of this incident.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Waitz

MEP (Greens/EFA-Die Grünen AT)