

# FRENTE POLISARIO

*Representación para Europa*



Brussels, 21st, November, 2018

To the attention of Mr. Vincent Picket.  
Head of Maghreb Division at the European External Action Service

Dear Mr. Vincent Picket,

It has often come to my knowledge recently that, on several occasions, you have questioned the Frente POLISARIO for not responding to your invitations.

What is all this really about?

Shortly after the 2016 and 2018 Decisions, the Frente POLISARIO contacted the Council to enter, in conformity with the Court decisions, into negotiations that would allow the conclusion of an agreement with the European Union for the development of the Territory, with the prospect of signing an agreement with a National Liberation Movement as was the case with the PLO.

We did not receive any response, which made it clear to us that we were moving towards the circumvention of the Court decisions. In so far as the only question at stake was the respect for the **consent** of the People of Western Sahara, the refusal of the European authorities to answer our request was abundantly revealing. We could have stopped there.

However, out of our genuine commitment to dialogue, the Frente POLISARIO once again requested a meeting with the Commission. During this meeting, which took place on 5 February 2018 and in which you participated, we expressed clearly our concerns. This being a unique opportunity, we explained our understanding of the law and reiterated our readiness for negotiations to express the **consent** of the Frente POLISARIO on behalf of the People of Western Sahara as well as our refusal to be consulted on the "benefit of the populations". However, we were very surprised to see, in a document issued by the Commission, the name of our Movement in a list of NGOs that were "consulted" about "the expected benefits for the populations".

It was then on 4 June 2018, on the eve of the transmission of its report to the European Parliament proposing to extend the EU-Morocco agreements to the Territory of Western Sahara that the Commission requested to meet with us between 6 and 8 June. The proposed deadline seemed very short, especially given the lack of elaboration. With only very partial information, we responded by asking for more time and underlining that we

were in a dialogue and that we could not accept any approach that would reverse the four principles identified by the European Union Court of Justice . Our position was clear; there will be no future outside the framework defined by the law. We also stated in our letter that "a consultation meeting should be based on an agenda, rather than a mere desire for information".

To date, we have not received any response. It was only after the initialing of the fisheries agreement by the EU and Morocco that the Commission sent us two requests for meeting in August and September stating that it intended to present to us the main points of the agreement which "is largely inspired by a concern for a fair distribution of the associated benefits, both socially and geographically".

In this way, it was not a matter of consent or consultation, but of providing information about a signed agreement, which violates our fundamental rights with this irrelevant reference to "profits". Furthermore, our abstention was as clear as our constant positions.

Under these circumstances, and bearing in mind all the difficulty surrounding this issue and the current challenges, I must convey to you that I regret these statements questioning our Movement, statements that seem to be somehow contaminated by controversy.

As far as it is concerned, the Frente POLISARIO maintains the highest esteem towards the European institutions, and stands ready for a dialogue that is in line with the expectations of our People, the respect for the Court decisions and the challenges and constraints that the European institutions have to deal with.

Yours Sincerely,

Mohamed Sidati,  
Minister, Representative of Frente POLISARIO to Europe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohamed Sidati', written in a cursive style and underlined.