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“Illegal extension of EU-Morocco agreement to occupied Western Sahara: POLISARIO Front denounces the Commission’s harmful and irresponsible behavior”

The POLISARIO Front followed with the greatest attention the debates before European Parliament’s INTA Commission, which took place on 13th, July 2021, in regards to EU-Morocco Association Agreement and its illegal extension to occupied Western Sahara.

On this occasion, several MEPs questioned the European Commission on the non-compliance of agricultural products which are exported by the Moroccan occupier, in fraud of European regulations. In addition, the European Commission announced that it was sending a new “visit” mission to Western Sahara occupied territories at the end of the summer to examine the so-called “benefits” of the extension agreement, in defiance of the Court’s sentences.

As the sole and legitimate representative of Saharawi people, the POLISARIO Front denounces the harmful and irresponsible behavior of the European Commission.

Since 2016, the European Union Court of Justice have repeatedly stated that, in application of the principle of self-determination, Western Sahara has a separate and distinct status, and that the Saharawi people, represented by the POLISARIO Front, is a third party to EU-Morocco relations whose consent is binding on the European Union, regardless of the alleged benefits. The rule of law is therefore clear: the Saharawi people are the only legitimate owner of Western Sahara territory, and only they can decide with sovereignty over economic and other activities in Western Sahara.

However, the Saharawi people have never consented to any exports from Western Sahara. These economic flows, which stand outside any legal framework, violate the sovereign rights of the Saharawi people on their national territory and natural resources. Similarly, with regard to the “visit” to the Saharawi territory, the Kingdom of Morocco, whose sovereignty is limited to Moroccan territory alone, cannot authorize the entry of foreign agents into occupied Saharawi territory. In the absence of authorization issued by the Saharawi authorities, the “visit” of the Commission officials would therefore constitute a flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of Western Sahara.

The European Commission will only achieve total losses . To satisfy the wishes of the Moroccan occupier, it agrees to play against its camp by allowing illegal exports that destroy the agricultural sectors in Europe. The European Commission must come to its sense: there can be no prosperous economic development without respect for international legality. As for the so-called “visit” to occupied territories, it is announced for the end of the summer while the new judgments of the EU General Court are expected in September. This eagerness arouses incomprehension. What makes it urgent to send this “visit” instead of waiting for the Court’s sentences? The Commission gives the impression of rushing to comfort the Moroccan occupier one last time, before the eruption of a new crisis. Such efforts are futile and only harm the European Union’s image on the international scene.

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