Subject: Complementary information on the written question P-633418 on EU-Morocco aviation agreement and Western Sahara

Dear Mr Cuffe,

You have asked for a follow up to the answer initially provided to the parliamentary written question P-633418 of M. Marcellesi.

Following the General Court order of 30 November 2018, it is made clear that the definition of territory contained in the Euro Mediterranean aviation agreement is not covering Western Sahara. This being so, any airline certified by an EU Member State has to comply with EU rules concerning, in particular, the safety of its operations, the licensing of its crew and the maintenance of its aircraft, irrespective of the territory in which the airline operates. The Member States are well aware of the order.

Western Sahara is listed by the United Nations as a non-self-governing territory and the EU is supporting the renewed efforts of the UN towards finding an enduring solution to the conflict and support the UN Secretary-General to achieve a just and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the UN.

At this stage, no negotiations are envisaged in order to include the Western Sahara in an aviation agreement (like it was done in the case of agricultural products and fisheries, which are pending before the General Court).

Yours faithfully,

Filip CORNELIS