Question for written answer E-000478/2025/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Imprisonment of Boualem Sansal

Boualem Sansal is a well-known Algerian writer and tireless defender of freedom of expression. On 16 November 2024, he was arbitrarily arrested by order of the Algerian Government. His arrest takes place against a backdrop of growing tensions between Algeria and France, and demonstrates the Algerian regime's worrying slide into totalitarianism. It also seems to be a retaliation against France's recent recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara.

Boualem Sansal is a prominent figure in the French-speaking world and a free-thinking intellectual. His persecution is therefore a direct attack on the fundamental values that the EU defends, in particular freedom of expression and the protection of human rights.

In light of this:

1. Does the Commission plan to take retaliatory measures against, or impose sanctions on, those behind this slide into authoritarianism, in line with the EU's goal to promote democracy and fundamental rights?

2. What specific actions does the Commission intend to take to both support persecuted writers and intellectuals around the world (particularly those who live under authoritarian regimes in non-EU countries), and ensure that they are not silenced as a result of any state reprisals?

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