

EN

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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.1.2025)

The Commission attaches high value to its strategic partnership with Morocco, which is long-standing, wide-ranging and deep¹. Over the years, the EU has established a profound friendship and a solid and multi-faceted cooperation, which it intends to take to the next level in the coming weeks and months.

The Commission took note of the Court of Justice of the European Union's (CJEU) judgment² on the annulment of the Council decision³ concerning the extension to Western Sahara of the EU-Morocco tariff liberalisation commitments, which apply to agricultural and fisheries products originating in Western Sahara. The Commission is currently analysing the judgement in detail. It is therefore too early to discuss about any eventual measure following the CJEU's ruling.

In line with the CJEU judgement, the effects of the annulled Council decision are to be maintained for a period of twelve months from the date of delivery of the judgment.

The EU firmly intends to preserve and continue strengthening close relations with Morocco in all areas of the EU-Morocco partnership, in line with the conclusions of the European Council of 17 October 2024⁴.

¹ See point 51 of the Conclusions of the European Council of 17 October 2024,
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-25-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

² Judgment of 4 October 2024, *Commission v Front Polisario*, Joined Cases C-779/21 P and C-799/21 P, EU:C:2024:835, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62021CJ0779>

³ Council Decision (EU) 2019/217, OJ L 34, 06/02/2019, p. 1–3,
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2019:034:FULL&from=PL>

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/2pebccz2/20241017-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>