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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.11.2024)

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

The Commission takes note of the Court of Justice judgments on the appeals against the judgment of the General Court of 29 September 2021², as well as the reply to the preliminary ruling request on the labelling of products from the territory of the Western Sahara³. The Commission is currently analysing the judgments in detail.

The EU reaffirms the high value it attaches to its strategic partnership and firmly intends to preserve and continue strengthening close relations with Morocco in all areas of the EU-Morocco Partnership.

Under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for 2021-2027, as agreed by the co-legislators, there is no possibility to compensate losses in cases of termination and/or non-renewal of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) or Protocol. Under the EMFAF, support for the temporary cessation of activities with regards to SFPAs is limited to the interruption of the application of an SFPA or protocol thereto due to reasons of force majeure.

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 C-778/21 P, C-798/21 P, C-779/21 P, C-799/21P.

³ C-399/22.