

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002098/25
to the Commission
Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)
(26 May 2025)**

Subject: Trade agreements: Morocco and Western Sahara

In October 2024, the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) ruled that the trade agreements between the EU and Morocco are invalid in the case of imports of goods from Western Sahara. This ruling has legal implications for the EU's agricultural and fisheries agreements with Morocco and requires that products from Western Sahara carry an origin label without any reference to Morocco. In November 2024, the Commission stated during a hearing of Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development that a legal analysis of the ruling was being conducted, but to date, the current Commission has not yet proposed any solutions.

Therefore, I ask the following follow-up questions:

1. What plan has the Commission drawn up to adjust its trade policy with Morocco and Western Sahara in line with the October 2024 CJEU ruling, and what is the timeline for that plan?
2. What are the implications of the CJEU ruling on the origin-labelling of goods imported from Western Sahara, in light of the declaration of invalidity of the trade agreement pertaining to goods from Western Sahara?

Submitted: 26.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(22 September 2025)**

The EU continues to attach high value to its strategic partnership with Morocco, which is long-standing, wide-ranging and deep ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission has taken note of the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Joined Cases C-779/21 P and C-799/21 P ⁽²⁾ on the annulment of the Council Decision ⁽³⁾ concerning the extension to Western Sahara of the EU-Morocco tariff liberalisation commitments, which apply to products originating in Western Sahara.

The Commission is engaged in discussions with the Moroccan authorities to find a solution following the judgment. In line with the CJEU judgment, 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, i.e. until 4 October 2025.

The annulment of the agreement does not affect the rules on the indication of the country of origin of fruit and vegetables harvested in Western Sahara and marketed in the EU as the CJEU has also confirmed in a judgment of the same day (C-399/22) ⁽⁴⁾ that the rules laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 ⁽⁵⁾ and the predecessor of Regulation (EU) 2023/2429 ⁽⁶⁾ apply.

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 2024.

⁽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 the Court (Grand Chamber) of 4 October 2024, *European Commission and Council of the European Union v Front populaire pour la libération de la Saguia el-Hamra et du Rio de oro (Front Polisario)*, ECLI:EU:C:2024:835.

⁽³⁾ OJ L34/1 of 6.2.2019: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2019:034:FULL&from=PL>.

⁽⁴⁾ Judgment of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 4 October 2024, *Confédération paysanne v Ministre de l'Agriculture et de la Souveraineté alimentaire and Ministre de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Souveraineté industrielle et numérique*. ECLI:EU:C:2024:839.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj/eng>.

⁽⁶⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/2429/oj/eng.