

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002880/26

to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left), Estrella Galán (The Left), Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE), João Oliveira (The Left), Catarina Martins (The Left), Jussi Saramo (The Left), Oihane Agirregoitia Martínez (Renew), Martin Günther (The Left), Vladimir Prebilič (Verts/ALE), Lynn Boylan (The Left)

(13 July 2026)

Subject: Drone attacks against civilians in Western Sahara

Since the resumption of hostilities in Western Sahara in November 2020, there has been a documented increase in the number of drone attacks carried out by the Moroccan Armed Forces against civilians east of the Berm.

According to the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Office, 129 attacks and more than 310 victims, including women and minors, were recorded between 2021 and 2025. Those affected include travellers, herders and other people engaged in civilian activities, many of whom were attacked hundreds of kilometres away from combat zones.

The updated report estimates that 63% of the victims were killed. The report also documents forced displacement, the destruction of vehicles and livelihoods, and serious psychological consequences, and raises concerns about possible violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution and military necessity.

Western Sahara remains a non-self-governing territory pending decolonisation.

1. Will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) call for an international, independent and impartial investigation into these attacks?
2. Does the VP/HR consider the maintenance of trade agreements with Morocco to be compatible with the repeated allegations of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Western Sahara?
3. What measures will the VP/HR take to ensure that no technology, components, funding or military cooperation from the EU or its Member States contribute directly or indirectly to attacks against the Sahrawi civilian population?

Submitted: 13.7.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission

(14 August 2026)

The EU has recalled ⁽¹⁾ that now is not the time for escalation, but for negotiations on Western Sahara. It calls on all parties to respect international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The EU continues to support fully the UN-led process, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2797 (2025) ⁽²⁾, and the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution.

The conclusions of the European Council of 17 October 2024 ⁽³⁾ reiterate the EU's objective to preserve and continue strengthening close relations with Morocco in all areas of the EU-Morocco Partnership.

In line with these conclusions, the EU continuously attaches high value to its long-standing partnership with Morocco across all key areas of our bilateral relationship, including trade.

The control of arms exports by EU Member States is subject to national legislation, the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP ⁽⁴⁾ and the Arms Trade Treaty ⁽⁵⁾.

The decision whether to authorise a specific export or not lies with the individual EU Member State concerned ⁽⁶⁾. Under the Common Position, each Member State is solely responsible for assessing arms export licences against eight criteria.

Member States work continuously in the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) framework to promote convergence in arms exports.

⁽¹⁾ <https://x.com/DTzantchev/status/2052647483977637930>.

⁽²⁾ [https://docs.un.org/en/s/res/2797\(2025\)](https://docs.un.org/en/s/res/2797(2025)).

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/2pebccz2/20241017-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008E0944-20250415>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://old.thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/ATT_English/ATT_English.pdf?templateId=137253.

⁽⁶⁾ The EU Common Military List (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/1499/oj/eng>) which also covers all items to which the Arms Trade Treaty applies.