

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003521/26

**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Céline Imart (PPE), François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE), Nicolas Bay (ECR), Ilia Lazarov (PPE), Christophe Gomar
(PPE), Aleksandar Nikolic (Pfe), Andrey Kovatchev (PPE), Julien Leonardelli (Pfe), Michalis Hadjipantela (PPE),
Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR)**

(7 September 2026)

Subject: Polisario Front

For nearly 40 years, the Polisario Front has been implicated in numerous attacks targeting civilians, including Europeans. The most recent attack, on 5 May 2026 in Es-Smara, left one person injured and was condemned by the European Union, France and the United States.

Meanwhile, the EU allocates EUR 9 million of humanitarian aid per year to the Tindouf camps, which are administered by the Polisario Front, while the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is not permitted to carry out an independent census of the camps' residents, despite the UN's repeated requests for such a census. Furthermore, on 2 October 2025, the EU indicated its intention to increase this aid.

This situation raises questions about the traceability of EU funds benefiting, even indirectly, an organisation that employs terrorist methods.

In this context:

1. Does the Commission intend to make any increase in humanitarian aid for the Tindouf camps conditional on an independent registration of beneficiaries by the UNHCR, in order to guarantee the transparency and sound management of EU funds?
2. Given the repeated attacks targeting the civilian population, has the Commission assessed, or does it intend to assess, the situation of the Polisario Front against the criteria applicable for inclusion on the EU's list of terrorist organisations?

Submitted: 7.9.2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission

(28 October 2026)

Premised on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, humanitarian aid is needs-driven and therefore not conditional in nature.

The EU provides humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi refugee population in the area of Tindouf to address humanitarian needs as regards food, health, water and sanitation, and education.

The budget allocated for humanitarian assistance in 2026 amounts to EUR 9 million. It is established annually based on an assessment of humanitarian needs of the affected population.

The Commission provides humanitarian assistance via its partners, UN agencies, international organisations and certified non-governmental organisations and not directly via national, local or *de facto* authorities.

The Commission's partners are thoroughly assessed on their capacity to observe basic principles and obligations, including respect of EU, international and national law, and compliance with transparency, accountability and internal controls.

The Commission ensures that EU funding is allocated effectively and responsibly in line with the values and goals of the EU. Robust safeguards are in place, covering due diligence and risk assessments (*ex-ante* checks), implementation monitoring, and oversight and controls (*ex-post* verification), with regular monitoring of the actions receiving EU funding.

An individual or entity may be listed as terrorist according to Common Position 2001/931/CFSP⁽¹⁾ when there is precise information demonstrating that a competent authority, has taken a decision concerning involvement in terrorist acts, attempts, participation, facilitation, or financing. The responsibility for designating terrorist organisations rests with the Council.

⁽¹⁾ Council Common Position of 27 December 2001 on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, pp. 93-96): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/compos/2001/931/oj/eng>.