

**Question for written answer E-006630/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Isabella Lövin (Verts/ALE), Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE), Norbert Neuser (S&D), Marco Scurria (PPE), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL), Åsa Westlund (S&D), Vicente Miguel Garcés Ramón (S&D), Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI) and Jill Evans (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EU monitoring of human rights in Western Sahara

On 6 March 2013, Isabella LÖVIN, Ivo VAJGL, Willy MEYER and Vicente GARCÉS RAMÓN – members of the Intergroup for Western Sahara, which has the support of more than 60 MEPs – were on their way to El Aaiún in Western Sahara on a human rights fact-finding mission, but were denied entry into Morocco at Casablanca airport.

In view of this incident, as well as the facts that a) in 2010 the PECH Committee did not get permission from Morocco to organise an official delegation to Morocco including Western Sahara; b) other MEPs, as well as national politicians, have previously been refused entry; c) the Commission is now negotiating both a fisheries agreement and a free-trade agreement with Morocco; and d) a 2013 report by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture found an increase in torture and ill-treatment during detention and arrest processes in Morocco, something which was confirmed in a recent report by the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation; we would like the Commission to answer each of the following questions:

How many official EU delegations have in recent years visited the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara, and how have these delegations investigated the human rights situation?

Does the Commission intend to undertake an official fact-finding mission of its own in Western Sahara, with a programme to meet with all the relevant stakeholders, and if not, why not?

How does the EU ensure that the protection of human rights and compliance with the rule of law laid down in the EU-Morocco Association Agreement are properly enforced?

How has the Commission formally reacted to the expulsion of four MEPs from Morocco on 6 March 2013?