



Brussels, 14.12.2020

**Esteemed Excellences,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Esteemed Sir or Madam,**

We express our deep concern with the resumption of armed conflict in Western Sahara. On the occasion of repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement by the Kingdom of Morocco, most recently by Morocco's military action in the Guerguerat region, the Polisario Front declared the ceasefire agreement of 1991 to be terminated.

We condemn Morocco's illegal military action in the Guerguerat region and the subsequent construction of a wall in a region that is clearly part of the territory of Western Sahara under the control of the Polisario Front as agreed under the UN ceasefire agreement. We call on the Kingdom of Morocco to withdraw immediately from the Guerguerat region.

We call on the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front to end the military clashes and return to the ceasefire.

We are urging both parties to engage in cooperation, return to the ceasefire and urge the international community to exercise political engagement to resolve the decade-long conflict and the illegal occupation of the territory of Western Sahara. The Sahrawis' right to self-determination, as established under international law, must be respected. The referendum agreed in 1991 must finally be held and the age of colonialism must end.

We denounce the further deterioration of the human rights situation in the occupied territories and the renewed crackdown on journalists, human rights defenders and political activists.

We call on the UN Secretary General to appoint as soon as possible a Special Representative to replace his previous personal envoy Horst Köhler, who resigned in 2019. This step is urgently necessary to facilitate a lasting conflict resolution.

**Intergroup for Western Sahara
European Parliament**



We expect the Commission and the EEAS to put forward an ambitious initiative for an EU contribution to the resolution of the conflict. It is of great importance that the decisions of the European Court of Justice are fully respected particularly as regards the need to secure the consent of the Sahrawi people for any EU agreements with Western Sahara in any aspect involving the non self-governing territory of Western Sahara.

We also expect the Commission and the Council to condemn the violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and to put the resolution of the conflict around Western Sahara on the agenda of the forthcoming summit between the European Union and the African Union and to step up EU support to the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf.

We strongly condemn Donald Trump's proclamation of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara. This is an unacceptable and profoundly uninformed attempt of adding fuel to the fire.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Intergroup for Western Sahara