



Brussels, 19th March 2025

Roberta Metsola

President of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60 Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels
Belgium

Regarding: Denying representatives of occupying powers access to the European Parliament

To Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

Dear Roberta,

We are writing to you as Members of the European Parliament to express our deep concern regarding the prospects of having lobbyist walk our halls and advocate for ways to circumvent the [European Court of Justice's decision of 4. October 2024](#)¹, upholding [the 2021 ruling that hat the European Union's fisheries agreement with Morocco is invalid](#)².

We believe, that the European Parliament should, for obvious reasons, not allow itself to become a lobbying ground for the exploitation of resources of the people of occupied lands. Yet, with the stories that lobbying agency [Rud Pedersen has been hired by Morocco](#)³ to, in effect, [try to do exactly this](#)⁴, this is a real risk.

Consequently, some of [us have already informed the Rud Pedersen](#)⁵ agency that we will not meet with them, as long as they in effect represent a country's exploitation of the natural resources of an illegally occupied territory or country.

¹ <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2024-10/cp240170en.pdf>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:62019TJ0344&qid=1730988668724>

³ <https://www.africaintelligence.com/north-africa/2024/12/18/rabat-restructures-its-lobbyists-in-brussels.110353545-eve>

⁴ <https://danwatch.dk/danske-lobbyister-paa-kontroversiel-opgave-for-afrikas-sidste-kolonimagt/>

⁵ <https://euobserver.com/eu-and-the-world/arc85d4236>



This, however, is an issue that we feel require further, and a principled stand. The European Parliament should be clear, as we have done with for instance the representatives of Russia and Belarus, that we in no way can condone or accept occupations that run contrary to international law, [such as Morocco's long presence in Western Sahara](#)⁶. An occupation which has seen the effective expulsion of a large part of its indigenous population.

We therefore request that you, when it comes to current and future discussions about agreements between the EU and Morocco, where there is the possibility that the illegal exploitation of Western Saharan resources could be discussed, take clear action. We believe that in such cases, you should deny the agency and its representative access to the European Parliament's premises and committee meetings, as well as take away their possibility to host or attend events with European Parliament involvement, related to this issue.

We look forward to your reply and to a clear and principled commitment that lobbying for occupying powers, whomever they may be, is not to take place inside the European Parliament.

With kind regards, Members of the European Parliament

Per Clausen (Denmark)
Hanna Gedin (Sweden)
Jussi Saramo (Finland)
Jonas Sjöstedt (Sweden)
Pernando Barrena (Spain)
Estrella Galán (Spain)
Anja Hazekamp (Netherlands)
Rudi Kennes (Belgium)
Catarina Martins (Portugal)
Irene Montero (Spain)
Isabel Serra (Spain)

⁶ <https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2024/07/06/the-rules-based-order-and-the-high-stakes-of-western-sahara/>