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Mr Florent Marcellesi MEP  
Mr José Bove MEP  
Mr Bodil Valero MEP  
European Parliament  
60 rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels

*Dear colleagues,*

I would like to thank you for your letter dated on 16 January, addressed to Commissioner Malmström, Commissioner Moscovici and myself, where you refer to the implications of the judgment by the Court of Justice of the European Union of 21 December 2016 on the European Union-Morocco Agricultural Agreement.

As you know, the judgment upheld the appeal brought by the Council of the European Union and set aside the judgment delivered by the General Court on 10 December 2015. Therefore, the Council Decision concluding the European Union-Morocco Agricultural Agreement remains valid.

It is important to emphasize that there is no prohibition, embargo or ban on imports of products from Western Sahara into the European Union. The importation of goods into the European Union (including those coming from Western Sahara) is subject to rules, procedures, verification processes and, for specific products, to technical requirements so as to ensure the proper implementation of European Union legislation.

The European Union has to abide by the judgment. An analysis is progressing on the different aspects of the judgment and technical discussions are ongoing with Morocco to work out the way forward.

The EU continues to underline the importance of an enduring solution to the conflict over Western Sahara. The EU remains concerned about the long duration of this conflict and its implications in terms of security, respect for human rights, and regional cooperation.

The EU encourages renewed efforts by the United Nations to find a solution to this conflict and will support the efforts by the new United Nations Secretary-General to achieve a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

I hope the above addresses the concerns raised in your letter and I assure you of my full support for the resolution of the conflict in Western Sahara.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini

