

Motions

Motion number	13
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Elisabet Nebreda
Member party	Esquerra Republicana, Bloque Nacionalista Galego, Eusko Alkartasuna, Més Compromís, Nueva Canarias, PSM-Entesa Nacionalista
Title (of the Motion)	Support for Western Sahara's right to self- determination in accordance with UN resolutions

In 1975, the Kingdom of Morocco initiated the so-called "green march", a mobilisation of more than 300,000 civilians with the intention of reclaiming Moroccan sovereignty over the territory of Western Sahara, which was in the process of decolonisation by the Kingdom of Spain. Meanwhile, in 1976, the Polisario Front proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic with the support of Algeria.

After years of war between the Polisario Front and Morocco for control of the territory, with the proven use of napalm and white phosphorous on the Saharawi civilian population and the forced exile of a large part of the Saharawi people, in 1991 the parties to the conflict reached an agreement supported by the United Nations. In this agreement, the creation of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara [MINURSO] was agreed, which was to be held in February 1992, although due to disagreements over the census it never took place.

Since then, the territory of Western Sahara has been 2/3 controlled by the Moroccan regime, while the Polisario Front controls 1/3 of the territory. More than 170,000 Sahrawi refugees have to this day been living in refugee camps in the Tindouf region, located in south-western Algeria bordering the Sahrawi territory. And despite numerous UN resolutions calling on Morocco to comply with the agreement and hold a referendum on self-determination, the Western Sahara issue remains unresolved.

According to a report to the UN Security Council (document S/2002/161), Spain continues to be the administering power of the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara, within the framework of the decolonisation process. In this sense, Spain's position to date has been to defend the referendum on self-determination within the framework of the process agreed with the United Nations. Recently, however, this position has changed. Last March, the Spanish government stated that Morocco's autonomy plan represents the most serious basis for resolving the conflict, breaking 40 years of neutrality. Subsequently, on 7 April, the Congress of Deputies in Madrid approved by majority a non-legislative proposal reproving the Spanish government's position and reaffirming a negotiated solution within the framework of the United Nations.

For all these reasons, the European Free Alliance:



- 1) Regrets the decision of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to support the autonomy plan for Western Sahara and considers it a clear breach of consensus within the framework of UN resolutions.
- 2) Supports the resolution of the status of Western Sahara in the form of a referendum of self-determination on independence and as a territory pending decolonization, thus reflecting the wish of the Saharawi people.
- 3) Joins the Congress of Deputies in its demand to ask the Spanish government led by Pedro Sanchez to immediately rectify its decision and to make a clear call for the holding of a referendum of self-determination on independence in which the sovereignty of the Saharawi people is respected, within the framework of the United Nations resolutions.
- 4) Calls on the European Union to take a unified position in favour of a resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara within the framework of the United Nations and to work to ensure that international law and the agreements already reached prevail.