

**DR. CAROLINE LUCAS**  
*Green Party*  
*for the South East of England*

Commissioner Ferrero Waldner  
Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
Bruxelles, 1040

1st October 2008

Dear Commissioner,

**"Advanced status" for Morocco**

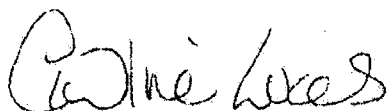
I am writing to question the recent proposal of the EU to grant Morocco "advanced status" in its future relations with the Community.

Morocco has occupied the major part of Western Sahara since 1975. Saharawi citizens who oppose the occupation are forced to live in intimidation and fear. There is extensive evidence of torture, rape, false imprisonment and unfair trials of Saharawi citizens, documented by organisations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and also by the report of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights at the UN.

By the EU considering further deepening its relationship and granting 'advanced status' to Morocco an impression of legitimising this occupation is given. Therefore, I urge that the EU not only questions its motivations for granting this status, but also that it upholds its fundamental principles of human rights by launching a full investigation into the rights abuses by the Moroccan authorities against the Saharawi citizens of occupied Western Sahara.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas MEP