

Bourita: Any Future Agreement with EU Must Respect Morocco's Territorial Integrity

Bourita took issue with European "blackmail" on the Western Sahara question to warn foreign partners that Morocco will sign no cooperation agreements excluding its southern provinces.

[Safaa Kasraoui](#) Nov. 17, 2021 12:58 p.m.



Bourita: Any Future Agreement with EU Must Respect Morocco's Territorial Integrity

Rabat - Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Nasser Bourita has reaffirmed that Morocco's territorial integrity is non-negotiable, saying that any agreement with foreign partners must include Morocco's southern provinces.

Speaking at a hearing session before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Moroccan House of Representatives, Bourita stressed that "any future agreement" with the [EU](#) must respect Morocco's sovereignty "through the integration of the Sahara as a starting point."

He also emphasized that Morocco "must liberate itself from the logic of blackmail that Europe practices from time to time."

For the Moroccan FM, a renewed dynamic with the EU requires "more coordination and vigilance" against Polisario's maneuvers.

Bourita reassured MPs that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is "mobilizing" the necessary support within the institutions" of the EU and member states to prepare an appeal against the European Court of Justice's recent ruling to annul the EU-Morocco fisheries and agriculture agreements.

Bourita emphasized that Morocco and the EU seek to "correct the imbalances and restore the situation to its normal course."

In addition to Morocco, several international bodies and countries slammed the [ECJ ruling](#).

Describing the ECJ's [verdict](#) as "political," the Mediterranean Chamber of Fisheries said the court's decision took it by "surprise."

"The European Court's decision remains an inappropriate interference in foreign policy between sovereign states," the chamber said.

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The Spanish government has also opposed the ECJ's ruling, arguing that the fisheries agreement with Morocco is a "priority."

"The fisheries agreement is a priority for Spain, because of its importance for the fishermen of our country, especially for the fleets of Andalusia, the Canary Islands and Galicia," Spanish Agriculture Minister Luis Planas told the Spanish Senate in October.

Spain operates 93 of the 138 EU vessels that fish off Moroccan waters as part of the EU-Morocco fisheries deal.

"Today, we are working together on the basis of trust to take all necessary measures to defend our interests" as part of the EU's "positive cooperation with Morocco, which must be maintained from a strategic point of view, as it benefits both sides," Planas added.