

British MP Urges UK to Recognize Morocco's Sovereignty Over Western Sahara



He said that several MPs, supportive of Morocco's approach to addressing the Sahara dispute, are frustrated over the UK's lack of progress in addressing the issue.

Rabat - British MP Liam Fox has emphasized the importance of maintaining strong [cooperation](#) between Morocco and the UK, notably calling on his country to recognize Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara.

The MP made his remarks during an interview with Medi1TV on Sunday, where he emphasized the need for the UK to offer its "full support to Morocco and recognize its sovereignty over the Sahara."

Such a move would further strengthen [cooperation](#) and ties between the

two countries, he argued, noting that he had sent a letter to the British Foreign Secretary, David Cameron, to "draw his attention to the fact that the UK has fallen behind the US on this issue."

The US recognized Morocco's sovereignty over its southern provinces in [Western Sahara](#) in December 2020, with the Trump administration issuing a proclamation that applauded Morocco's commitment to the UN-led process while describing the Moroccan [Autonomy Plan](#) as the best route to lasting resolution of the territorial dispute.

"Therefore, as of today, the United States recognizes Moroccan sovereignty over the entire Western Sahara territory and reaffirms its support for Morocco's serious, credible, and realistic autonomy proposal as the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute over the Western Sahara territory," said the US proclamation issued in December 2020.

In his Medi1TV [interview](#), Fox noted that his letter to Cameron, the UK Foreign Secretary, essentially laid out a strong case for London to follow in Washington's footsteps on the Western Sahara question.

"I reminded Mr. Cameron, who is a friend and whose government I was a member of when he was Prime Minister, of Morocco's importance on the multilateral stage, both politically and economically," said the British MP.

He also argued there has been a growing consensus among British MPs on the Sahara question, noting that many are now open to endorsing Morocco's approach to resolving the lingering territorial dispute.

"They are even somewhat frustrated by London's lack of progress on the issue," he added.

Fox also spoke about the political and economic benefits of recognizing Morocco's sovereignty over the Sahara, arguing that the move would

principally help boost bilateral cooperation at different levels and open doors for stronger security cooperation, increased bilateral trade, as well as other opportunities in the economic and financial sectors.

"It is an important element for the stability and security of the region," he said, noting the importance of a shared responsibility against irregular migration.

Read Also: [Western Sahara: Is UK Support for Morocco's Territorial Integrity on the Horizon?](#)

Commenting on aspects of cooperation between London and Rabat, Fox described Morocco as an increasingly attractive country to foreign direct investment (FDI) thanks, in particular, to "its geostrategic importance, as several countries see it as a gateway to Africa."

The UK's exit from the EU is seen by Morocco and the UK as an opportunity for London to develop trade relations with our partners.

"Morocco is a priority country for the UK in economic, commercial and foreign policy terms," Fox said.

Following Britain's exit from the EU in 2019, Morocco and the UK signed an Association Agreement in which they stressed their shared commitment to maintaining a strong, multifaceted cooperation.

Morocco stands out as an international crossroads and gateway to Africa, especially as it has excellent bilateral relations with many countries on the continent, Fox said in the MEdi1TV interview, stressing that the North African country's assets include its unique geographical position as a "gateway to Africa" and its excellent diplomatic and trade relations with several countries across Africa.

Fox is not the only senior official to emphasize Morocco's strategic importance for the UK's post-Brexit vision, supporting the

acknowledgment of Morocco's sovereignty over its southern provinces in Western Sahara by the UK.

Morocco's ambassador to the UK, Hakim Hajoui, told a British outlet last month that the only thing missing from the overwhelmingly positive and promising post-Brexit cooperation between London and Rabat is the UK's decision to recognize the Moroccaness of the Western Sahara region.

He spoke of the unprecedented boost Morocco's Sahara position has received from "tremendous" support by several countries, including the US, EU countries like Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium, as well as several countries in Africa and the Arab world.

With the ever-expanding international support for the Moroccan Sahara stance indicating that much of the world is shifting to a "clear recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over its Sahara," Ambassador Hajoui argued, "everybody" is now asking whether the UK is considering adding its voice to the growing chorus of international support for Morocco's territorial integrity.

"So how about the UK? That is the question everybody is asking," the ambassador concluded.

© Morocco World News. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, rewritten or redistributed without permission.