

# British MP Reiterates Call For UK To Support Morocco's Western Sahara Position

Recent years marked growing demands from MPs, urging the UK to recognize Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara.

Safaa Kasraoui May 10, 2024 12:25 p.m.



Laayoune, southern Morocco

Rabat - Daniel Kawczynski, British Conservative Party Member of Parliament (MP) has renewed his appeal, urging the UK government to recognize Morocco's sovereignty over its southern provinces in the Western Sahara.

Kawczynski made his remarks during a debate on the "recognition of Western Sahara as Moroccan" on Wednesday.

"Morocco, of course, is our second oldest ally, a reliable partner and one that seeks our support in recognising Western Sahara as part of the kingdom," Kawczynski said during the debate, which also marked the presence of pro-Polisario MPs.

The British MP also recalled the growing support **Morocco's** position has been gaining in the international community from different influential countries, including the US.

"The United States of America and Israel, two of our most important allies, have recognised the sovereignty of **Western Sahara** as Moroccan," he said.

Kawczynski also cited the countries that joined a lengthy list of nations that support the Moroccan **Autonomy Plan** as "the most serious and credible political basis" to end the dispute over Western Sahara, which include the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, and France.

"We are in the process of jeopardizing our potential with Rabat and falling behind our competitors," he continued, referencing the US, Germany, and Spain.

He also emphasized the importance of the Sahara dossier for Morocco, recalling the country's efforts in boosting the region's socio-economic development. .

Will Britain join the list of countries in favor of Morocco's stance?

This is not the first time Kawczynski has emphasized the importance of recognizing Morocco's sovereignty over its southern provinces in the Western Sahara.

Kawczynski and several of his fellows in the UK Parliament have been calling on Britain to join the countries that support Morocco's territorial integrity to safeguard bilateral ties between the two countries.

In January, the MP said in Rabat that he raised questions within his country's parliament to know when the UK will recognize the Moroccan Sahara as an integral part of the kingdom.

Simon Mayall, retired British Army officer and Middle East adviser at the Ministry of Defense, also joined the growing chorus of politicians who emphasize the importance of an official UK recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara.

Commenting on the Moroccan autonomy initiative recently, Mayall said that the Moroccan proposal "remains the only realistic, credible, forward-looking plan for the region that is on the table."

British MP Liam Fox echoed a similar sentiment in January, stressing that his country has to offer its "full support to Morocco and recognize its sovereignty over the Sahara."

He argued that such a decision would further strengthen cooperation and ties between the two countries, 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 UK recently said it appreciates Morocco's efforts toward finding a lasting, politically negotiated, solution to the dispute.

In response to criticism targeting commercial activities between the UK and Morocco, the British government emphasized that commerce in the southern provinces is in fact, legal.

“We do not consider commercial activity to be illegal in Western Sahara, providing it respects the interests of the Sahrawi people,” Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office David Rutley said in a notice.

He also recalled the UK's support for the UN-led political process to find a mutually acceptable political solution to end the dispute.