

7 December 2006

## Alarming situation caused by a food shortage in Western Sahara

Last week the Saharawi community warned of the disastrous situation caused by the food shortage among the Saharawi refugees in the camps at Tindouf (Algeria) and issued an urgent appeal for funding.

The explanation offered by the camps themselves is that the United Nations organisations responsible for distributing food to the refugees have drastically cut the aid they used to give. In fact, consignments that previously provided food for 158000 people now only feed 90000.

According to the information available, both the stocks of the WFP, which has the mandate to ensure that the refugee population is provided with the four basic products and the security stocks delivered by ECHO have been used up, which is causing starvation in the camps. The situation is being tackled thanks to bilateral agreements with other countries, but the situation is unsustainable.

In view of the situation can the Council say: 1. what emergency mechanisms it is considering introducing in order to alleviate the food shortage in the Saharawi refugee camps;

2. in the long term and since this sort of situation cannot be managed on the basis of emergency campaigns, how it intends to ensure that the supply of food to the food stores is guaranteed?

Answer:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2006-5328&language=EN>