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Resolutions and Declarations Bureau Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria 13-15 April 2018

URGENT: Resolution on Western Sahara

YES Presidium

Young European Socialists,

Reaffirming all Socialist International previous resolutions on Western Sahara,

Considering the resolutions of the United Nations and the African Union on Western Sahara and their joint efforts aimed at finding a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Western Sahara conflict based on the exercise by the Saharawi people of their inalienable right to self-determination;

Reaffirms its support for the efforts deployed by the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara with a view to achieving a mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara;

Expresses its deep concern that the referendum on self-determination for the Saharawi people has not been held yet, and *calls* on Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to cooperate fully with the United Nations Mission for the referendum (MINURSO) with a view to accomplishing its mission without further delay; furthermore, it is important to ensure that all Saharawi people on the diaspora and refugee camps are able to vote;

Express further its deep concern about the human rights situation in Western Sahara, and *stresses* the paramount importance of respecting the political, economic and cultural rights of the people of Western Sahara;

Having regard to the ruling of the General Court of the European Union, issued on 21 December 2016, which recognized the separate and distinct status accorded to the territory of Western Sahara by virtue of the principle of self-determination, welcomes the judgement of the Court of Justice of EU issued on 27th February, 2018, which confirms that, as Western Sahara is legally defined as a non-self-governing territory by the United Nations, any fishery agreements between Morocco and the European Union cannot apply to the waters of the Western Sahara. Again the court has given a clear message to the European Commission that any agreements, whether for fish, other produce or aviation with Western Sahara must have the consent of the Frente POLISARIO or it will be illegal. *urges* all parties concerned to respect the right of the Saharawi people to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources;

Considering the decision of The legitimate representative of the Saharawi people, Frente POLISARIO, has welcomed the judgment of the EU Court of Justice and is ready to engage in direct negotiations with the EU Commission to establish a legal framework for trade and bilateral ties in Western Sahara.

Calling on the EU commission in stressing the need to abide by the rulings of the European Court of Justice with respect to Western Sahara, and to take necessary measures to ensure that all European vessels benefiting illegally operating in Saharawi waters to withdraw immediately.

Takes note of the admission of Morocco as member of the African Union as it provides an opportunity to reactivate the political process set in motion under aegis of the African Union with a view to bringing about a lasting, just and peaceful solution to the decolonization issue of Western Sahara.