



Plenary sitting

B8-0080/2018

5.2.2018

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Venezuela
(2018/2559(RSP))

Francisco Assis, Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Elena Valenciano
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela
(2018/2559(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the Inter-American Democratic Charter adopted on 11 September 2001,
- having regard to the Constitution of Venezuela, in particular Article 298 thereof,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Venezuela, in particular those of 27 February 2014 on the situation in Venezuela¹, of 18 December 2014 on the persecution of the democratic opposition in Venezuela², of 12 March 2015 on the situation in Venezuela³, of 8 June 2016 on the situation in Venezuela⁴ and of 27 April 2017 on the situation in Venezuela⁵,
- having regard to the declaration of 12 July 2017 by the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Mercosur Delegation and the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly on the current situation in Venezuela,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 September 2017 on EU political relations with Latin America⁶,
- having regard to the declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain third countries concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela, of 7 December 2017,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on Venezuela of 13 December 2017,
- having regard to Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/88 of 22 January 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2063 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela⁷,
- having regard to the IV Declaration of the Lima Group of 23 January 2018,
- having regard to the declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the latest developments in Venezuela, of 26 January 2018,

¹ OJ C 285, 29.8.2017, p. 145.

² OJ C 294, 12.8.2016, p. 21.

³ OJ C 316, 30.8.2016, p. 190.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0269.

⁵ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0200.

⁶ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0345.

⁷ OJ L 16I, 22.1.2018, p. 6.

- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the National Constituent Assembly (ANC) of Venezuela announced on 23 January 2018 that it had approved a decree asking the National Electoral Council (CNE) to hold presidential elections before 30 April 2018;
- B. whereas according to human rights organisations, the ANC's decree calling for elections to be held by the end of April 2018 violates Article 298 of the Venezuelan Constitution, which clearly states: 'The law that regulates electoral processes may not be modified in any way in the period between election day and the six months immediately preceding it';
- C. whereas on 23 January 2018, the Lima Group issued a declaration rejecting the unilateral decision to call for elections during the first quarter of 2018; whereas the EU has not recognised the ANC;
- D. whereas Venezuela's Supreme Court has banned the main opposition coalition, the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), from entering a candidate in the upcoming elections; whereas Leopoldo López and Henrique Capriles are banned from running for office; whereas the MUD was awarded Parliament's 2017 Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought;
- E. whereas the date of and process leading up to the elections were two of the main topics of the Santo Domingo talks between the Government and the opposition; whereas all major political decisions, such as the decision to call snap elections, should be taken within the framework of a national dialogue; whereas participation in these elections should occur under equal, fair and transparent conditions, supervised by a balanced CNE, with sufficient guarantees for all participants, including the presence of independent international observers;
- F. whereas since December 2017, the Venezuelan Government and sectors of the opposition have been pursuing a dialogue in the Dominican Republic, in the presence of high-ranking international observers and the Dominican President, with a view to finding a solution to the political crisis in Venezuela; whereas a new round of talks is currently being held in the same location;
- G. whereas on 5 August 2017, Mercosur applied its democratic clause and suspended Venezuela from the bloc; whereas following the elections to the ANC, the US imposed new financial sanctions and travel restrictions on Venezuela; whereas Canada and Mexico have also imposed sanctions on Venezuelan officials; whereas on 22 January 2018, the EU adopted targeted sanctions against seven high-level officials of the Government of Venezuela;
- H. whereas following these EU sanctions, the Venezuelan Government retaliated by expelling the Spanish ambassador to Caracas;
- I. whereas the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate; whereas almost 2 million Venezuelans have fled the country; whereas host countries are coming under increasing strain in terms of providing assistance and services to new arrivals;

- J. whereas according to Caritas Venezuela, acute malnutrition in the country now constitutes a humanitarian emergency; whereas 15 in 100 children are severely undernourished; whereas the medicines shortage is estimated in the range of 91-95 %; whereas the World Health Organisation (WHO) has ranked Venezuela the largest contributor to the malaria burden in the Americas; whereas diphtheria is making a comeback and HIV patients have no access to any kind of medication;
1. Expresses its solidarity and full support to the people of Venezuela who are suffering the effects of a severe humanitarian crisis; calls on both the Government and the opposition to agree immediately on a humanitarian emergency access plan for the country; calls on the EU institutions to do their utmost to ensure that EU assistance is provided on the ground;
 2. Reiterates, without prejudice to the EU sanctions adopted as a result of the establishment of the unrecognised ANC, that the only way out of the crisis is through dialogue and negotiations; expresses its support for a negotiated political solution as the only way to bring sustainable stability to the country and to enable it to address the deep-rooted crisis and the pressing needs of the population;
 3. Welcomes the ongoing dialogue in the Dominican Republic and fully supports the mediation efforts; calls for the EU to support the international negotiation process and underlines its readiness to consider providing parliamentary mediation support to reinforce existing efforts as part of a coherent overall EU approach;
 4. Deplores the unilateral decision to call elections during the first quarter of 2018; recalls the importance of agreeing on a date and conditions for the presidential elections in the context of the current negotiations in Santo Domingo; stresses the need to guarantee free, transparent and credible elections;
 5. Insists that no obstacles or conditions should be imposed on the participation of political parties; recalls that in order to ensure a credible electoral process, the following conditions need to be met: an agreed electoral schedule, a balanced composition of the CNE and the supervision of the process by international observers; recalls its readiness to send an Election Observation Mission to Venezuela if requested by the Venezuelan authorities;
 6. Demands that the Venezuelan Government immediately restore normality in its diplomatic relations with Spain; recalls that the EU and its Member States have expressed their solidarity and consider this act of aggression against one state as an act of aggression against the EU as a whole;
 7. Reiterates its previous calls for the release of all political prisoners, respect for democratically elected bodies, the upholding of human rights and, most importantly, the alleviation of the suffering of the people of Venezuela;
 8. Calls on the Venezuelan Government to ensure that those Venezuelans who have fled the country have access to their social security rights, such as pensions;
 9. Calls for the EU to help neighbouring countries and, notably, Colombia to address the situation of the Venezuelan refugees; reiterates its call on the governments of the

Member States to process with the greatest generosity and speed the applications for EU residence permits by citizens of Venezuela;

10. Reiterates its request for a Parliament delegation to be sent to Venezuela to hold a dialogue with all sectors involved in the conflict as soon as possible;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Government and National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary General of the Organisation of American States.