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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0226/2018**

2.5.2018

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

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

on presidential elections in Venezuela  
(2018/2695(RSP))

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

**European Parliament resolution on presidential elections in Venezuela  
(2018/2695(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Venezuela is a party,
- having regard to the Constitution of Venezuela,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 13 November 2017 and 22 January 2018,
- having regard to its numerous resolutions concerning Venezuela, in particular those of 27 February 2014 on the situation in Venezuela<sup>1</sup>, of 18 December 2014 on the persecution of the democratic opposition in Venezuela<sup>2</sup>, of 12 March 2015 on the situation in Venezuela<sup>3</sup>, of 8 June 2016 on the situation in Venezuela<sup>4</sup>, of 27 April 2017 on the situation in Venezuela<sup>5</sup>, of 13 September 2017 on EU political relations with Latin America<sup>6</sup> and its last resolution of 8 February 2018 on the situation in Venezuela<sup>7</sup>,
- having regard to the declaration of 19 April 2018 by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on behalf of the EU on the situation in Venezuela, and to the press release issued after her meeting with the President of the National Assembly of Venezuela together with representatives of the main opposition parties on 26 April 2018,
- having regard to the statement of 8 February 2018 by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Ms Fatou Bensouda,
- having regard to the declaration of ‘El Grupo de Lima’ of 14 February 2018,
- having regard to the declaration of 20 April 2018 by the Organisation of American States (OAS) on the worsening humanitarian situation in Venezuela,
- having regard to its decision to award the 2017 Sakharov Prize to the Democratic Opposition in Venezuela,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas in its last resolution on the situation in Venezuela, adopted in February 2018, a

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 285, 29.8.2017, p. 145.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 294, 12.8.2016, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 316, 30.8.2016, p. 190.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 86, 6.3.2018, p. 101.

<sup>5</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2017)0200.

<sup>6</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2017)0345.

<sup>7</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2018)0041.

set of conditions were established in order to recognise the results of the next presidential elections in Venezuela, namely: ‘a viable electoral calendar, agreed in the context of the national dialogue with all relevant actors and political parties, and respecting equal, fair and transparent conditions of participation – including the lifting of bans on political opponents, without political prisoners, and ensuring the National Electoral Council is balanced in composition and impartial and with the existence of sufficient guarantees, including monitoring by independent international observers’;

- B. whereas these conditions for credible, transparent and inclusive elections have not been met, as demonstrated during the talks in Santo Domingo, where the Venezuelan Government and the opposition failed to reach an agreement; whereas international democratic bodies, including the European Union, declined the invitation to observe such an illegitimate electoral process;
  - C. whereas the situation of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela is continuing to deteriorate; whereas Venezuela is facing an unprecedented political, social, economic and humanitarian crisis resulting in many deaths; whereas the holding of free and fair elections with all appropriate guarantees and allowing an adequate amount of time to prepare for them are fundamental prerequisites for resolving the many problems Venezuela faces; whereas almost 2 million Venezuelans have fled the country; whereas host countries are coming under increasing strain to extend assistance and services to those arriving;
  - D. whereas the recent developments in Venezuela are causing further polarisation and deterioration of the situation of human rights, democracy and the rule of law; whereas Venezuela is facing an unprecedented political, social, economic and humanitarian crisis, resulting in many deaths;
1. Is concerned that the elections scheduled to take place on 20 May 2018 do not fulfil the criteria needed to ensure that they are carried out in a fair and credible manner, such as political pluralism, democracy and the rule of law; stresses that they have been convened in violation of the Venezuelan Constitution by the National Constituent Assembly, a body not recognised by the EU; recalls that, under the current circumstances, the European Parliament cannot recognise the elections resulting from this illegitimate process;
  2. Stresses that reaching an agreement between the government and the opposition is the only way to build a process of political normalisation, overcoming the enormous social divide and the severe political crisis that Venezuela has been suffering in the last few years; considers that the best option would be to postpone the elections scheduled on 20 May and to immediately meet around the negotiating table in order to reach an agreement on the electoral procedure with the participation of all the political parties, the date, and guarantees that a new, free, transparent and egalitarian electoral process will be held in Venezuela;
  3. Calls on both the government and the opposition to adopt without further delay a macroeconomic stabilisation plan together with the international financial institutions to address the numerous challenges the country is faced with, such as the humanitarian crisis caused by hyperinflation and shortages of basic goods and medicines; reiterates its call on the Venezuelan Government to allow humanitarian aid into the country;

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, 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.