

**Question for written answer E-008669/2014**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Press freedom in Venezuela

Paper imports into Venezuela are controlled by the state company Complejo Editorial Alfredo Maneiro, which answers directly to the Presidency of the Republic of Venezuela. This fact gives rise to situations that cannot easily be reconciled with freedom of the press, which is so essential, as newspapers that do not follow editorial lines agreeing with the government have their access to paper restricted, endangering their very existence. It should also be pointed out in the same context that a great many complaints have been lodged against the Venezuelan Government for censure of the media and of freedom of expression.

1. Does the High Representative consider that control of essential resources for the press is compatible with the freedom of expression that no democratic society can be without?
2. Has the High Representative made a formal complaint to the Venezuelan authorities concerning repression by the government of President Maduro of media bodies that are not close to the regime?
3. Is the High Representative considering making political or trade agreements with Venezuela conditional upon respect for human rights and basic freedoms such as freedom of expression?