

Question for written answer E-000077/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Institutional coup in the Mercosur

On 14 December 2016, the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Delcy Rodríguez, was seriously assaulted by police officers in Buenos Aires as she attempted to participate in a Mercosur Council meeting to which Venezuela had not been invited. Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay had arbitrarily suspended Venezuela as a full member of the bloc on 2 December 2016, claiming that it had failed to comply with either the Protocol of Accession or the organisation's rules.

Venezuela has reiterated that it wishes to uphold the legal framework and rules, and has therefore invoked the Olivos Protocol, which gives States Parties a forum to negotiate and discuss matters.

Venezuela has denounced what it sees as a totally unlawful 'coup against the Mercosur' owing to the irregularities surrounding the non-transfer of the rotating presidency from Uruguay to Venezuela, when this had already been arranged, saying there are no legal grounds or legal procedure to justify this usurping of the presidency and that the country's rights as a State Party are being ignored. Caracas does not recognise Argentina's 'self-election' to the presidency.

What is the EU's stance on this abnormal situation, which points to a breakdown in the institutional system?

What concrete measures will it take to support the dialogue that Venezuela is proposing in order to restore Mercosur's institutional values?