

**Question for written answer E-002800/2017**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Situation in Venezuela

Extremist opposition groups in Venezuela have been vandalising public and private property and buildings, metro stations and roads. They have also attacked civilians, police officers and military officials. They have started fires and used firearms and professional equipment to carry out those acts. The leaders of the opposition and of the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) have not condemned their actions.

In response to these serious violent events, on 11 April 2017 the Venezuelan Defence Minister, General-in-Chief Vladimir Padrino López, reaffirmed that the right to protest is guaranteed by the Venezuelan Constitution but that the use of violence is unacceptable. He has asked the Organization of American States (OAS) to issue a statement condemning the opposition's unlawful actions, which are standing in the way of dialogue and peace.

Taking into account the stepping-up of violence and the undemocratic and unconstitutional means being used by the opposition,

1. What is the EU's position on this situation?
2. What measures will the EU promote with a view to working towards a peaceful solution to this situation?