

**Question for written answer E-002803/2017**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Risk of instability in Latin America

On 6 April 2017, Admiral Kurt W Tidd, Commander of the United States Southern Command presented a report to the US Senate warning that Venezuela could be a 'destabilising' force in Latin America.

Tidd stated that 'The growing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela could eventually compel a regional response. Venezuela faces significant instability in the coming year due to widespread food and medicine shortages; continued political uncertainty; and a worsening economic situation.' He warned that the growing influence of Russia, China and Iran in the region could be a threat to the US.

Since the start of the year, the US and other countries have stepped up pressure on Venezuela. In a recent meeting of questionable legality, and without a vote, the Organisation of American States approved a declaration, supported by 17 countries, calling for Venezuela's National Assembly, which is currently in contempt, to be re-instated.

The declaration of Venezuela as a 'threat to the national security' of the US, which was approved by President Obama, still stands. The US Government has been warning for months that it is seeking justification to intervene, which would destabilise the region.

1. What is the EU's position on the possible threat of US intervention in Venezuela?
2. Does the EU consider Venezuela to be a threat to its security?