

Question for written answer E-002710/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Delegation of the European Union to Venezuela

On 3 May 2018, the European Parliament adopted a resolution rejecting the Venezuelan presidential elections of 20 May and calling for their 'immediate suspension'. High Representative Federica Mogherini joined Parliament's call.

The resolution sets out, inter alia, that the EU will only recognise elections 'based on a viable electoral calendar'.

Parliament has also decided not to send an election observation mission to Venezuela, as it does not consider the elections legitimate.

Referendums and votes are direct democracy mechanisms which enable people to express their opinion on public affairs and decide them. Venezuela is a sovereign country with the power to establish with its citizens the referendums that it deems necessary. The condemnation of those elections seems, at the very least, to be clear interference in the internal affairs of another country and shows a neo-colonial attitude towards Venezuelans.

1. What reason(s) can the EU provide to justify to Venezuelan and European citizens this attempt to obstruct the free exercise of democracy in the form of a leadership election?
2. Does the EU believe that its actions are beneficial to our relations with the Venezuelan people?