

**Question for written answer E-000186/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Recognition of Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's highest institutional authority

On 10 January 2019, Nicolás Maduro assumed the presidency of Venezuela for a further term, until 2025, following a fraudulent election not recognised as valid by either the EU institutions or the Member States.

This leaves Venezuela's National Assembly as the country's only legitimate democratic institution. The new President (Speaker) of the National Assembly, Juan Guaidó, declared Maduro's inauguration invalid and called on the armed forces, civil society and the international community to restore democracy to the country in accordance with its Constitution, Article 233 of which provides for the President of the National Assembly to take over if the President of the Republic 'becomes permanently unavailable to serve'.

The Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, Luis Almagro, and a number of states in the region have recognised Mr Guaidó as Acting President of Venezuela.

Given this situation and bearing in mind the National Assembly's role, recognised in the statement issued by High Representative Mogherini on 10 January 2019:

- (1) Does the High Representative recognise Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's highest institutional authority and sole legitimate spokesperson at international level?
- (2) Is it her view that Nicolás Maduro enjoys no legitimacy as President of the country?
- (3) Does she support the measures the National Assembly has announced for the holding of free elections in Venezuela?