

EN
E-000597/2019
Reply
(14.5.2019)

On 28 May 2018 the Council concluded that in spite of the numerous calls by national political actors and the international community, including the European Union, for elections on the basis of an agreed electoral calendar and guarantees that would ensure inclusive and credible elections, early presidential elections and regional elections were held on 20 May 2018 without agreement on either the date or conditions, and in circumstances which did not allow all political parties to participate in an equal manner.

The substantially reduced electoral calendar, bans and other major obstacles to the participation of opposition political parties and their leaders, as well as the non-compliance with minimal democratic standards as indicated by numerous reported irregularities, notably the widespread abuse of state resources, voter coercion and unbalanced access to the media, led to these elections being neither free nor fair.

Under these circumstances, the election and its outcome lacked any credibility, as the electoral process did not ensure the necessary guarantees for inclusive and democratic elections. The absence of those guarantees also prevented the EU from planning any form of observation to monitor the electoral process according to internationally recognised standards¹.

¹ Council conclusions on Venezuela (9167/18).