

**Question for written answer P-002006/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

Dita Charanzová (ALDE), Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE), Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE), Enrique Calvet Chambon (ALDE), Martina Dlabajová (ALDE), Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal (ALDE), Marian Harkin (ALDE), Petr Ježek (ALDE), Javier Nart (ALDE), Urmas Paet (ALDE), Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), Robert Rochefort (ALDE), Marielle de Sarnez (ALDE), Marietje Schaake (ALDE), Pavel Telička (ALDE), Renate Weber (ALDE) and José Inácio Faria (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Political prisoners and polarisation in Venezuela

On 24 January 2015, thousands took to the streets once again in Caracas to protest the economic mismanagement of the Maduro government and the persistent food shortages. Furthermore, on 25 January 2015 the government blocked requests by former Chilean and Colombian presidents to visit imprisoned opposition leader Leopoldo López. The arbitrary arrests, continued detention and poor treatment of political prisoners, who are continuously denied their basic rights, must be actively addressed by the EU, and we call on the VP/HR to be fully engaged in this matter.

Parliament adopted two resolutions in 2014 on the critical situation in Venezuela and called for the release of all political prisoners. It also voted on two occasions to send an election observation delegation to Venezuela.

In light of these troublesome facts and the increasing political polarisation, the food crisis and the risk of violence, the VP/HR is asked to answer the following:

1. What concrete action does she intend to take to raise these matters and give them greater prominence?
2. When is she planning to meet with her Venezuelan counterparts?
3. Will she, in collaboration with Venezuelan representatives, agree on the presence of EU observers, including from the European Parliament, to monitor the parliamentary elections in 2015?