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EUROPEAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
LES LIBERAUX DEMOCRATES EUROPEENS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

85-149/03

SANDERS TER HOLTE

Strasbourg, 10 February 2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marieke Sanders Ter Holte, Carles Gàsoliba I Böhm, Isisodoro Sanchez Garcia on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the situation in Venezuela

GASOLIBA

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Venezuela;

- A. whereas the political deadlock between the government and the opposition is causing the country to sink deeper into a quagmire and this, despite the partial lifting of the general strike, which began on 4 December 2002;
 - B. whereas there was a lack of cooperation on the part of the Venezuelan government during the negotiations for a political settlement, mediated by the Secretary General of the Organisation of American States (OAS), Cesar Gaviria;
 - C. whereas the continuation of the strike in the oil industry has up to now caused losses of around \$4 billion over the last two months;
 - D. whereas there is a climate of impunity and nine months on from a failed coup attempt against Mr Chavez, not a single person has been prosecuted for the deaths which occurred during street clashes;
 - E. whereas there are real threats to the freedom of the press in Venezuela following investigations instigated by the government on two private television channels which allegedly discredited the Venezuelan government and President Hugo Chavez;
1. Expresses its concern at the highly polarised political situation in Venezuela and its fear that the potential for large-scale violence remains high;

328.126

2. Calls on all political and social actors in Venezuela to create the appropriate spirit of tolerance in order to consolidate a climate of reconciliation among the people of Venezuela;
3. Emphasises the need for a democratic and peaceful solution through dialogue and, in due respect of the constitution of Venezuela, taking account of human rights and the democratic values expressed in the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
4. Expresses its full support for the contribution that the Group of Friends of Venezuela (Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and the United States), can offer in fostering a viable solution to the crisis in Venezuela along the lines of the objectives set by OAS resolution 833, in particular a peaceful, democratic, constitutional and electoral solution to the crisis;
5. Reaffirms its support for the efforts undertaken by the tripartite working group, comprising the OAS, the UNDP and the Carter Centre, to facilitate a national dialogue between the Venezuelan government and the "Coordinadora Democratica", as well as other concerned sectors of society;
6. Supports the proposal made by the Carter Centre to organise a recall referendum and calls on both sides to make a firm commitment to honour the results of any process of this kind;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the OAS, the Latin American Parliament and the Government of Venezuela.

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