



Plenary sitting

B8-0723/2016

1.6.2016

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Venezuela
(2016/2699(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela
(2016/2699(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Venezuela,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the situation in Venezuela is extremely tense due to a number of very different factors;
- B. whereas the implosion of the oil price, which is by and large the main foreign currency revenue of the country, has led to a strong contraction of the national economy;
- C. whereas inflation has risen to 700 %, the highest in the world;
- D. whereas the provision of basic consumption goods, including food and medicines, is totally deficient, with up to 40 % of nationally produced or imported basic goods, which are kept at low prices for social reasons, disappearing into the black market with neighbouring countries;
- E. whereas the long-requested increase in the excessively low petrol price and the liberalisation of the exchange rate have also had negative effects on income and access to goods;
- F. whereas an unprecedented drought caused by the el Niño phenomenon is further depressing the country; whereas the choice made to produce 70 % of the country's energy needs on the basis of hydroelectricity, neglecting other sources of renewable energy, has led to the current extreme scarcity of energy and the shutdown of both private companies and public offices;
- G. whereas, on 13 May 2016, the Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro prolonged the state of emergency for another 60 days;
- H. whereas the parliamentary elections of December 2015 produced a victory for the opposition, not least due to large-scale abstention by former PSUV voters, resulting in hitherto unknown cohabitation in terms of executive, judiciary and legislative powers;
- I. whereas the opposition has initiated a process for a referendum to revoke the mandate of the Venezuelan President, as allowed by the Venezuelan Constitution of 1999, which stipulates the possibility of revoking the mandates of all office-holders at all levels after one half of their mandate has elapsed;
- J. whereas this mechanism is unique in the world, and contains several conditions, including that at least 1 % of the electorate in every federal state has to ask for the initiation of the process, that 20 % of those entitled to vote have to ask for the referendum, that at least 25 % of those entitled to vote have to do so, and finally that

more people have to vote against the office-holder subject to revocation than voted for him/her;

- K. whereas the solution of conflicts by violent means has been a prominent characteristic of the whole region throughout the 20th century; whereas this high degree of violence at all levels of public life continues to exist and threatens to destroy Venezuela, which has not suffered from civil wars like most other countries in the region;
 - L. whereas impunity has a long history in Venezuela, while responsibility for murders and massacres, like that carried out in Catia prison in 1992, has still not been established;
 - M. whereas the violent events of 2014, when at least 43 people were murdered, remain in impunity, while a truth commission should shed light on crimes committed over the last decades and pave the way for normal trials and sanctions;
 - N. whereas UNASUR and the OAS are currently leading a mediation initiative with the aim of re-establishing political dialogue within the framework of the Constitution; whereas former Spanish President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero is leading diplomatic efforts supported by the US Secretary of State John Kerry;
1. Urges all parties involved not to further exacerbate instability in the country, to avoid all violence and not to repeat the bloodshed caused by the violent demonstrations at the beginning of 2015, to respect the law, and to enter into a constructive dialogue within the framework of the rule of law and the national Constitution;
 2. Underlines the fact that it is up to the Venezuelan people to decide democratically on the country's social and economic model;
 3. Insists that the current situation should not be used by states outside Venezuela for domestic purposes in their respective countries;
 4. Strongly condemns any calls for an intervention aimed at overthrowing the government, worst of all by military intervention, as expressed by Colombian ex-President Alvaro Uribe on 12 May 2016 during a speech in Miami; insists that any kind of political change must only be achieved via legal and electoral means;
 5. Invites all parties concerned to develop a plan for humanitarian aid and to put an end to the black market, smuggling and other actions that withhold access to basic goods, particularly for the poorer sections of Venezuelan society;
 6. Welcomes the efforts made by UNASUR and its Secretary General Ernesto Samper, and by the former Presidents of Spain, José-Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernández, and of Panama, Martín Torrijos, to promote a national dialogue with representatives of the Government of Venezuela and the opposition represented by the MUD;
 7. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, to support those efforts in order to return to peaceful negotiations and avoid further escalation of the conflict;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Government and authorities of Venezuela, and the EuroLat Assembly.