



Plenary sitting

B9-0009/2019

15.7.2019

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 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Venezuela
(2019/2730(RSP))

Kati Piri, Tonino Picula, Javi López, Isabel Santos
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela
(2019/2730(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Venezuela, in particular those of 27 February 2014 on the situation in Venezuela¹, of 18 December 2014 on the persecution of the democratic opposition in Venezuela², of 12 March 2015 on the situation in Venezuela³, of 8 June 2016 on the situation in Venezuela⁴, of 27 April 2017 on the situation in Venezuela⁵, of 8 February 2018 on the situation in Venezuela⁶, of 3 May 2018 on the elections in Venezuela⁷, of 5 July 2018 on the migration crisis and humanitarian situation in Venezuela and at its terrestrial borders with Colombia and Brazil⁸, of 25 October 2018 on the situation in Venezuela⁹, of 31 January 2019 on the situation in Venezuela¹⁰ and of 28 March 2019 on the emergency situation in Venezuela¹¹,
- having regard to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of 5 July 2019,
- having regard to the most recent statements by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), of 4 April, 30 April and 18 June 2019,
- having regard to the statement on the joint meeting of the International Contact Group and the Lima Group on the situation in Venezuela of 3 June 2019,
- having regard to the Lima Group Declaration of 3 May 2019,
- having regard to Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1656 of 6 November 2018 amending Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 concerning restrictive measures in Venezuela¹², which renews until 14 November 2019 the targeted restrictive measures currently in place,
- having regard to the Quito Declaration on Human Mobility and Venezuelan Citizens in the Region of 4 September 2018,

¹ OJ C 285, 29.8.2017, p. 145.

² OJ C 294, 12.8.2016, p. 21.

³ OJ C 316, 30.8.2016, p. 190.

⁴ OJ C 86, 6.3.2018, p. 101.

⁵ OJ C 298, 23.8.2018, p. 137.

⁶ OJ C 463, 21.12.2018, p. 61.

⁷ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0199.

⁸ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0313.

⁹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0436.

¹⁰ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0061.

¹¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0327.

¹² OJ L 276, 7.11.2018, p. 10.

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
 - having regard to the Inter-American Democratic Charter adopted on 11 September 2001,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
 - having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,
 - having regard to the Venezuelan Constitution,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela continues to worsen and the situation of human rights, democracy and the rule of law continues to deteriorate; whereas 7 million people are now in urgent need of assistance, 94 % of the population are living below the poverty line and 62 % are living in extreme poverty; whereas 70 % of children are not being schooled, 5 000 people are leaving the country every day and, according to estimates, there will be 5.2 million Venezuelan migrants by the end of the year;
 - B. whereas, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) ‘there are reasonable grounds to believe that grave violations of economic and social rights, including the rights to food and health, have been committed in Venezuela’; whereas it has also been acknowledged that for over a decade Venezuela has adopted and implemented a series of laws, policies and practices which have restricted the democratic space, weakened public institutions and affected the independence of the judiciary;
 - C. whereas this context has enabled the government to commit numerous human rights violations such as persecution on political grounds, extrajudicial killings, the use of torture, arbitrary arrests and threats and violence against indigenous communities; whereas the government recognised 5 287 ‘resistance to authority’ killings in 2018 and a further 1 569 such killings between January and May 2019; whereas information analysed by the OHCHR suggests that many of these killings may constitute extrajudicial executions;
 - D. whereas Venezuela’s economy, particularly its oil industry and food production systems, was already in crisis before any sectoral sanctions were imposed; whereas the most recent economic sanctions are further exacerbating the effects of the economic crisis and the humanitarian situation; whereas the government has accepted the appointment of a UN humanitarian coordinator, which equates to an acceptance that a humanitarian crisis exists;
 - E. whereas the humanitarian situation has sharply deteriorated due to prolonged power cuts caused by the lack of maintenance of public infrastructure, the misallocation of resources, corruption and severe underinvestment; whereas this has resulted in the collapse of public services such as public transport and access to electricity, water and natural gas; whereas social programmes, including the distribution of food and access to

medical care, have been used as an instrument of social control and implemented in a discriminatory manner which is based on political grounds and disproportionately affects women; whereas the economic and social rights of many indigenous peoples have been disproportionately affected by the humanitarian situation, particularly by the closure of Venezuela's borders in February 2019, which has had dire consequences for indigenous groups such as the Wayuu or Pemon whose traditional territories span the border;

- F. whereas the EU has mobilised EUR 117.6 million in emergency relief and development assistance as a response to the crisis, working with vulnerable populations in both Venezuela (60 % of the funding) and neighbouring countries (40 % of the funding); whereas thus far the support collected by the UN for its regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan only represents around 22 % of the total requested (USD 159 million out of an appeal for USD 738 million);
 - G. whereas the EU remains convinced that a peaceful political democratic solution is the only sustainable way out of the Venezuelan crisis, and is engaging in outreach activities in Venezuela and with all relevant actors through the International Contact Group and its Special Adviser; whereas after two rounds of talks in Oslo, talks between the de facto government and the opposition resumed on 8 July in Barbados; whereas the EU has reiterated its support for the Norway-led facilitated process with a view to achieving a political and democratic solution to the crisis that should lead to free and fair elections with international observation;
 - H. whereas the army captain Rafael Acosta Arévalo died on 29 June 2019 while being held in custody by the Venezuelan security forces; whereas the EU considered this act as another stark illustration of the arbitrary nature of the judicial system in the country, and of the lack of guarantees and rights for those held in detention;
1. Expresses its solidarity and full support to the people of Venezuela who are suffering the effects of a severe political and humanitarian crisis;
 2. Recalls its previous position to categorically reject all proposals or attempts to resolve the crisis that might entail the use of violence or a military intervention; reaffirms that a peaceful, democratic and inclusive solution is the only sustainable way out of the current political impasse and the severe social and humanitarian crisis it has provoked;
 3. Supports the ongoing facilitated process led by Norway and welcomes the agreement by both sides to engage in a permanent dialogue for peace; stresses that for a facilitation process to be successful, the following confidence-building measures should be enacted by way of a minimum: the release of political prisoners and the lifting of the ban on opposition politicians running for public office; recognition of and respect for the National Assembly's constitutional role; the establishment of a balanced composition of the National Electoral Council and an updated national electoral register; the elimination of obstacles to equal participation in elections by guaranteeing that all political actors will be able to run under equal conditions, and the need to recognise the winner of the elections under conditions of equality, fairness and international monitoring;
 4. Calls on the Venezuelan authorities to ensure that humanitarian aid is distributed to the

entire population without any political bias; recalls that the Venezuelan authorities should protect all citizens in full respect for their human rights, and that they should honour their international commitments to respect the rule of law and fundamental freedoms; against this backdrop, insists that all militias or paramilitary groups should be placed under restraint and disarmed as soon as possible;

5. Reiterates its full support to the National Assembly, which is Venezuela's legitimate democratic body and whose powers need to be restored and respected, including the prerogatives and safety of its members; condemns the revocation of the parliamentary immunity of 22 parliamentarians and the incarceration of two;
6. Praises the efforts undertaken by the governments of the region to adequately welcome Venezuelan citizens in situations of human mobility, known as the Quito Process; welcomes the Road Map of the Buenos Aires Chapter, composed of specific actions related to issues including human trafficking, the provision of healthcare and the recognition of academic qualifications; calls for the EU to encourage and support these initiatives to ensure a Latin American-driven response;
7. Recalls that any intimidation of and attacks against indigenous peoples, including leaders, must be stopped, and that the authorities should ensure their protection and take all necessary measures to protect their individual and collective rights, including their right to land;
8. Calls on the Venezuelan authorities to launch a full and independent investigation into the death of the army captain Rafael Acosta Arévalo;
9. Recalls its proposals to send an official European Parliament delegation on a fact-finding mission to the country, should conditions permit; recalls its willingness to monitor the future electoral process;
10. 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 legitimate interim President of the Republic and National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the governments and parliaments of the Lima Group, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States.