



Plenary sitting

B9-0331/2023

11.7.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the political disqualifications in Venezuela
(2023/2780(RSP))

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on behalf of the S&D Group

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the political disqualifications in Venezuela
(2023/2780(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas the upcoming elections in Venezuela should represent a turning point towards a real democratic transition;
- B. Whereas the country is experiencing a continuous institutional, economic and political instability; whereas more than 7 million people have left Venezuela;
- C. Whereas restrictions on public information, freedoms of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly have been systematic, particularly for dissidents of the government, trade unions, human rights defenders;
- D. Whereas the National Assembly decided to appoint new members to the National Electoral Council;
- E. Whereas the Venezuela's Comptroller General announced that opposition leader María Corina Machado has been barred from holding public office for 15 years;
- 1. Condemns the administrative decisions intended to prevent members of the opposition from exercising their core political rights; calls for an independent nomination procedure for the appointment of the new National Electoral Council members, ensuring that opposition parties have a fair representation;
- 2. Reaffirms its commitment to full respect for fundamental rights in Venezuela and the rule of law; calls on the Venezuelan authorities to promote legislative reforms to promote citizen participation; is concerned about the promotion of a legal framework to restrict the defence of human rights in particular the "Law on Control, Regularization, Operations and Financing of Non-Governmental and Related Organisation";
- 3. Calls on the Venezuelan authorities and the opposition to continue their negotiation efforts by complying with previous partial agreements; believes urgent, genuine and reciprocal commitments are required from all actors involved;
- 4. Urges the Venezuelan authorities to ensure the conditions to hold fair, free, inclusive and transparent elections;
- 5. Calls on the Venezuelan authorities to implement the EU EOM 2021 recommendations, in particular the recommendation calling for the abolition of the Controller General's prerogative to strip citizens of their fundamental right to stand for election through an administrative procedure;
- 6. Calls on the EEAS, the Member States and the EU Delegation to Venezuela to continue

prioritising the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and to provide logistical and financial support to human rights defenders and the civil society;

7. Welcomes the statement of the HR/VP opening the possibility to review EU sanctions in case genuine steps towards free and fair elections in Venezuela are met;
8. Welcomes Colombian President Petro's initiative to reactivate the Venezuelan-led negotiation process, by holding the international conference on Venezuela in Bogotá where 20 countries attended;
9. Takes note of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights's statement reporting improvements on some topics, such as the development of a protocol for the investigation of femicides, the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to establish an in-country presence and a greater engagement with the UN;
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 Venezuelan authorities.