

**Question for written answer E-003655/2014**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 117  
**Michał Tomasz Kamiński (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Protests in Venezuela

In mid-February 2014, student groups started to organise demonstrations in protest against the huge wave of violence sweeping the country and the government's ineffective policies for combating criminality and dealing with the economic crisis. The authorities used force to disperse the peaceful demonstrations, leading to an increasingly tense atmosphere among the people of Venezuela and to mass social discontent. The protests escalated, and the battles raging between the protestors, law enforcement forces and militants loyal to President Maduro have so far claimed the lives of at least twenty people on each side. No information has been released on those arrested, but rumours are circulating that they are being tortured.

How can the EU help to bring about a resolution to the crisis in Venezuela?