

**Question for written answer E-013004/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Increasing tensions between Colombia and Venezuela

On 20 August 2015, the President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro ordered the partial closure of the border with Colombia as part of an 'offensive' to end crime and smuggling, following an incident in which two Venezuelan soldiers were wounded in a clash with smugglers.

Venezuela proceeded to deport more than a thousand Colombians residing in its territory without legal authorisation. According to the OCHA in Colombia more than 1 400 people were deported or repatriated; almost 20 000 returned on their own, creating a huge humanitarian crisis in the area.

On 12 September 2015, the air defence system of the Colombian Air Force detected in the area of Upper Guajira, the entry into its airspace of two Venezuelan military aircrafts. They entered 2.9 kilometres into Colombian airspace, flying over the area of Majayura and a military unit of the Colombian army in the region of La Flor.

1. What kind of information can the HR/VP provide us on what actions the EU is taking on the ground to address this humanitarian crisis?
2. Which is the assessment of the HR/VP concerning the violation of the Colombian airspace by the Venezuelan armed forces?