

Question for written answer E-003394/2019/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: VP/HR - Aberrant election of Venezuela as a member of the UN Human Rights Council

On 17 October it became known that Venezuela had been elected a new member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 2006, which created the Human Rights Council, provides that 'when electing members of the Council, Member States shall take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto'.

In July, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, issued an extensive report denouncing a strategy of the Nicolás Maduro regime 'aimed at neutralising, repressing and criminalising political opponents and people critical of the Government', as well as the failure of the state to ensure the right of the population of Venezuela to food and health care rights.

This election diminishes the credibility of the UN at a time when international law, multilateralism and human dignity are more important than ever.

In view of the above, will the Vice-President / High Representative say:

How does it envisage preventing states that systematically violate human rights and violate the requirements of Resolution 60/251 from being represented on the United Nations Human Rights Council?