

Question for written answer E-000563/2022

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

Rule 138

Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Leopoldo López Gil (PPE)

Subject: Censorship in Venezuela

The Venezuelan dictatorship is continuing on its path towards full censorship of the independent media.

The tyrannical regime in Caracas has stepped up its attacks on freedom of speech, preventing the granting of licences to use TV and radio frequencies, cutting the supply of paper for newspapers, and blocking access to websites that are not pro-regime.

As the months have passed, many newspapers have been unable to withstand the pressure and have had to close. This has had an adverse impact on media plurality in Venezuela.

In a fresh attack on media freedom, the Maduro regime has handed over the headquarters of *El Nacional*, a newspaper, to Diosdado Cabello, a member of the governing party subject to EU sanctions, following rigged and irregular court proceedings.

In 2015 *El Nacional* reported on links between the erstwhile President of the National Assembly and an international drug trafficking network. Since that time, access to information has been undermined even further owing to harassment via the legal system and the courts.

Such restrictions on freedoms are making the social and political crisis in Venezuela even worse.

Is the EU planning to impose sanctions against Lisbeth del Carmen Amoroso Hidrobo, the judge who handed down the rigged judgment referred to above?