

Question for written answer E-000279/2024

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Disqualifications of presidential candidates in Venezuela

On 26 January the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice confirmed the disqualification from running for president of María Corina Machado and other opposition leaders from holding public office in the country, making clear the regime's intentions not to allow the holding of fair, free and transparent presidential elections when Venezuelans are next called on to vote, elections that would set the country back on the road to democracy.

These events hinder the dialogue, promoted by the Union and other international stakeholders, which was taking place in Barbados between the Unitary Platform and the regime of Nicolás Maduro to reach an agreement to put an end to the political crisis in the country.

1. Given that these actions violate the social and political rights of the illegally disqualified candidates and undermine democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, will the Vice-President/High Representative urge the Council to include the new President of the Supreme Court of Justice, Carylisa Beatriz Rodríguez, on the list of persons sanctioned by the Union?
2. With this in mind and taking into account the fact that the recommendations of the last EU Election Observation Mission to the regional and municipal elections in Venezuela in 2021 have not been implemented, is the EEAS considering sending an Election Observation Mission for the upcoming presidential elections in the country?

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