

ORAL QUESTION O-0039/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Paul Lannoye, Didier Rod, Alain Lipietz, Pierre Jonckheer and Monica Frassoni, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Francis Wurtz, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
to the Council

Subject: Coup of 12 April 2002 in Venezuela

On 12 April 2002 a coup took place in Caracas, ousting the democratically elected President of Venezuela. On the same day, the Council of the European Union expressed its confidence in the putsch leaders in an official declaration, which ended: 'Finalmente, la UE confía en que el gobierno de transición respete los valores e instituciones democráticos para que se supere la crisis actual en un marco de concordia nacional y con pleno respeto de los derechos y libertades fundamentales'. This declaration was not translated into the other EU languages.

1. Why did both the Presidency of the European Union and Javier Solana, High Representative for CFSP, fail to condemn the attempted coup clearly and without delay?
2. Why was the Council, on the contrary, so quick to express its confidence in the putsch leaders even before they had been sworn in, at a time when they were in need of international legitimacy?
3. Why has the Council declaration not been translated?
4. Was this statement given prior approval by the Fifteen? If so, was it adopted unanimously?

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Deadline for reply: 27.06.2002