



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Plenary sitting*

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25.2.2014

B7-0216/2014

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Venezuela  
(2014/2600(RSP))

**Catherine Grèze, Raül Romeva i Rueda**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela  
(2014/2600(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Venezuela,
  - having regard to the statements by CELAC, UNASUR, OAS, Mercosur and ALBA of mid-February 2014,
  - having regard to the Ushuaia Protocol on the commitment to democracy by all Mercosur members, of 1998,
  - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas levels of violence, including political violence, are high in Venezuela; whereas in the immediate aftermath of the presidential elections of 14 April 2013, which resulted in a victory for the candidate Nicolás Maduro, 11 persons of his political colour were assassinated;
- B. whereas the municipal elections which took place two months ago, on 8 December 2013, were declared transparent, free and peaceful by international observers; whereas the results thereof consolidated the majority for the ruling party, with 76.34 % of the municipalities, against 23.66 % obtained by the opposition parties;
- C. whereas Venezuela is the country of the region which has most reduced levels of inequality over the past ten years, according to the President of CEPAL (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), Alicia Bárcena, , has drastically lowered poverty rates and has invested large sums in social programmes, in particular health, education and housing; whereas despite these facts, criminality, including murder rates and general insecurity in the public sphere, remains dramatically high and needs to be curbed;
- D. whereas the economic model with its redistribution and investment in social programmes in Venezuela still largely depends on oil revenues; whereas inflation and boycott of food supplies have degenerated into a political tool to create unrest; whereas the political opposition has not put forward any alternative economic model to lead the country along a sustainable development path and ensure further closing of the inequality gap;
- E. whereas legitimate demands for change have to be carried out via a peaceful debate involving all sectors concerned;
- F. whereas the political opposition is not monolithic and is divided on the strategy to adopt; whereas, since the municipal elections in December, one side has preferred the electoral path and the other has opted for destabilisation of the constitutional order; whereas some have called on people to use the streets as a means to overthrow the

democratically elected government;

- G. whereas, since February, these calls have led to violent acts and attempts to destabilise the constitutional order throughout the country;
  - H. whereas at least four people belonging to both the government and the opposition have been killed and many injured, and government buildings have been set on fire or devastated;
  - I. whereas certain national and international media are setting fire to an already explosive situation with misleading and even manipulated texts and images, and openly contributing to an overall atmosphere of an imploding rule of law;
  - J. whereas 85 % of the communication media in Venezuela are in private hands, whereas the number of licences granted to private TV and radio stations has increased by 77 % and 56 % respectively since Hugo Chávez came to power;
1. Expresses its condolences to all victims of the violence since the call for demonstrations of 12 February 2014 and the following days, and to their families;
  2. Adds its voice to those of CELAC, UNASUR, Mercosur, ALBA and the OAS, which, over the past few days, have all issued declarations containing equally strong condemnations of any attempt to violently overthrow a democratically elected national government, as well as government entities at regional and municipal level, and calls for an immediate cessation of provocative and violent acts;
  3. Reaffirms its conviction that the results of democratic elections, in particular the recent one in December 2013, have to be respected and that any critique with respect to government policies has to be carried out in a peaceful manner and within the rule of law;
  4. Demands that all crimes in the context of the violent acts perpetrated since the beginning of February be fully investigated, and their perpetrators brought before the courts and adequately punished;
  5. Encourages the National Assembly to establish a Truth Commission to investigate the recent violent acts and instigations to use violence, and elaborate principles on how to overcome the origins of that violence, punish perpetrators of crime and indicate peaceful ways to avoid a repetition of such events;
  6. Recalls, in this context, that President Maduro has made a firm commitment to send to jail any civilian carrying firearms, irrespective of his or her political colour;
  7. Is appalled by the completely irresponsible behaviour of a number of print and audiovisual media, which go in the opposite direction and instigate further violence with false affirmations and falsified photos;
  8. Recalls that Article 58 of the Constitution of Venezuela explicitly prohibits censorship of the media; expects, on the other hand, responsible journalism on the part of the

media, condemns any media-led instigations of violence, and asks the media to refrain from such actions in the future;

9. Invites all parties to consent to a peaceful dialogue in order to find sustainable solutions to their differences, within the rule of law set by the Constitution;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the acting presidencies of CELAC, UNASUR, Mercosur, ALBA and the OAS.