



## RESOLUTION:

### **Condemning violent repression of the opposition in Venezuela**

*Adopted at the YEPP Congress in Dubrovnik on 29th April 2017*

#### **Recognizing that:**

- In march 2017 the pro-government supreme court of Venezuela assumed the legislative power of the opposition-controlled congress.
- Following the storm of criticism by the opposition, foreign governments and the UN the decision was apparently withdrawn.
- Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary General Luis Almagro defined Nicolas Maduro, President of Venezuela, as a dictator and on April 26th 2017 indicted an exceptional meeting on the Venezuelan crisis;
- OAS is an international organisation founded in 1948 and composed by 35 independent countries of the Americas focused on peace keeping democracy and human rights enforcement and to improve socio-economic situation in American Member States.
- The Maduro government, representing Venezuela as a founding member of OAS, decided to withdraw the country from the organisation as a consequence of the interference into its internal political situation.
- The Venezuelan Government behaviour sparked amid protests in the country, strongly reprimanded by the authorities and leading to 32 deaths, 437 injured and 1289 arrests.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- Nicolas Maduro succession to Hugo Chavez's presidency led the country to a desperate state characterised by a 500% inflation and subsequent economic recession, violation of basic human rights and lack of access to food and health.

- Crime in Venezuela increased rapidly during and after the presidency of Hugo Chávez due to the institutional instability. The murder rate increased from 20 per 100.000 p.a. in 1998 to over 90 per 100.000 year in 20161.
- Following the supreme court abuse of power and its quick step back it is clear that the separation of powers in Venezuela is seriously threatened.
- The EU Parliament adopted a resolution the 27th April 2017 strongly condemning the brutal repression exercised by the Venezuelan security forces and demanding free and transparent elections as soon as possible.
- Pope Francis suggested to start a mediation with the Venezuelan government by asking the authorisation to send humanitarian aid, a fixed electoral agenda, the restitution of the Venezuelan Parliament constitutional powers and freedom to all political prisoners.

### **YEPP calls on:**

- Venezuelan authorities to free all political prisoners.
- Venezuela to indict as soon as possible new presidential elections respecting fair and democratic principles.
- The European Union, its Member States and the international community to urgently condemn the actions of Nicolas Maduro and his government and take necessary measures to help solving this crisis.
- The EEAS and the EU Member States to support the Vatican's mediation offer and all possible international negotiations to end the crisis.
- The European Union, its Member States and the international community to supply humanitarian help, for example through Non-Government-Organisations, to reduce the suffering of the Venezuelan population.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime\\_in\\_Venezuela#cite\\_note-SCIELOcrime-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_Venezuela#cite_note-SCIELOcrime-5)