



RESOLUTION

Crisis in Venezuela and the necessary European steps to tackle the extremist regime

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Prague, 23.02.2019

Recognising that:

- The Maduro regime created an oppressive political and social environment for the people of Venezuela.
- In order to bypass the legitimately elected parliament, the President created a Constituent Assembly. The President was widely criticized as the assembly, dominated by the president's Chavista allies, supplanted the opposition-controlled parliament, leaving it impotent.
- The European Union's High Representative Federica Mogherini declared this step as a threat to democracy. "The election of the Constituent Assembly has durably worsened the crisis in Venezuela. It risks undermining other legitimate institutions foreseen by the Constitution such as the National Assembly. The circumstances under which the election took place raise further doubts about the ability of the Constituent Assembly to effectively represent all components of the Venezuelan population. To all those who oppose serious negotiations, it has given an excuse to further drive conflict and use power unchecked. In addition, the legal attributions of the Constituent Assembly are unclear."¹
- The U.S. Government also criticized this action: "The United States condemns the illegitimate Constituent Assembly's continued attacks on Venezuelan democracy. On December 20, it passed a decree to effectively ban certain political opposition parties from participating in the 2018 presidential election. The Venezuelan people deserve better. The U.S. calls for respect for the Venezuelan constitution and the will of the Venezuelan people through the democratically elected National Assembly."²
- The economic crisis caused by the socialist policies of the GPP-SB party, led by President Nicolás Maduro has serious consequences on the people of Venezuela by hyper-inflation and a wide humanitarian crisis. According to UNHCR the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela has reached 3 million since 2014. Colombia has the highest number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, a total of over one million. It is followed by Peru, with over half a million, Ecuador over 220,000, Argentina 130,000, Chile over 100,000 and Brazil 85,000. In addition to South American countries, countries in Central America and the Caribbean also recorded increasing arrivals of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Panama, for example, is now hosting 94,000 Venezuelans.³

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/08/02/hr-venezuela/> (last downloaded: 07/02/2019)

² <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/12/276758.htm> (last downloaded: 07/02/2019)

³ <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2018/11/5be4192b4/number-refugees-migrants-venezuela-reaches-3-million.html> (last downloaded: 07/02/2019)

- The socialist government of Venezuela caused a serious economic disruption based on their leftist agenda. This resulted in an unprecedented disaster and the inflation hit 80 000% in 2018.⁴
- During the demonstrations against the regime authorities may have killed more than 500 people since 2015, according to UN investigators.⁵

Acknowledging that:

- Last year Nicolás Maduro, incumbent President won the presidential elections, but it did not meet democratic standards according to the EU.
- Nevertheless, Nicolás Maduro was sworn in as President at the high court, which was against constitutional requirements not to do so in the parliament.
- On 23rd of January Juan Guaidó was sworn in as a legitimate President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. According to the 233 Article of the Constitution with the absolute lack of the President of the Republic, the presidential mandate will be held by the President of the National Assembly.
- The regime of Cuba has interfered in Venezuela since 2002.

YEPP calls on:

- The Member States of the European Union to press Venezuela to hold a free presidential election.
- The Venezuelan government to allow humanitarian help to enter the country.
- The European Union and the international community to bring Nicolás Maduro to justice for his crimes against humanity.
- The European democratic community to condemn any oppressive, socialist dictatorship and stand up against the idea of revolutionary Marxism and communism.

⁴ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevehanke/2019/01/01/venezuelas-hyperinflation-hits-80000-per-year-in-2018/#36e716804572> (last downloaded: 07/02/2019)

⁵ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-44575599> (last downloaded: 07/02/2019)