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*Plenary sitting*

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**B10-0083/2025**

20.1.2025

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission  
pursuant to Rule 136(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Venezuela following the usurpation of the presidency on  
10 January 2025  
(2025/2519(RSP))

**Carlo Fidanza, Adam Bielan, Mariusz Kamiński, Alberico Gambino,  
Waldemar Tomaszewski, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Diego Solier,  
Rihards Kols, Ondřej Krutílek, Jaak Madison, Nora Junco García,  
Șerban Dimitrie Sturdza, Sebastian Tynkkynen, Veronika Vrecionová,  
Małgorzata Gosiewska, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Alexandr Vondra**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**B10-0083/2025**

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela following the usurpation of the presidency on 10 January 2025  
(2025/2519(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Venezuela,
  - having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the European Union of 10 January 2025 on the events of 10 January 2025,
  - having regard to the statement by the G7 foreign ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and the High Representative of the European Union of 10 January 2025 on the lack of democratic legitimacy of the presidential inauguration in Venezuela,
  - having regard to the statement of the United States Department of State of 10 January 2025 entitled ‘Condemning Nicolás Maduro’s illegitimate attempt to seize power in Venezuela and announcing new actions against Maduro and his representatives and to support the Venezuelan people’,
  - having regard to the reports and statements of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the situation in the country following the presidential vote,
  - having regard to the report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of 27 December 2024 entitled ‘Graves violaciones a los Derechos humanos en el contexto electoral’ (Venezuela: serious human rights violations following the elections),
  - having regard to the Carter Center election observer team’s statement on the Venezuela election,
  - having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC),
  - having regard to the Venezuelan Constitution,
  - having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the presidential election held on 28 July 2024 in Venezuela did not meet the minimum international standards for a credible process and did not respect the principles of political pluralism, democracy, transparency or the rule of law;
- B. whereas in recent months, the Venezuelan authorities have refused to publish the official tallies from the polling stations, thus preventing the announced results from being verified or recognised as representative of the will of the people;
- C. whereas on 10 January 2025, despite opposition and the fact that the international

community had not recognised his victory in the presidential election of 28 July, Nicolás Maduro was sworn in for a third consecutive term as president, to govern Venezuela for the next six years;

- D. whereas Maduro assumed a new term in office without clear evidence to support his election, in the absence of any transparency and respect for the civil and political rights of the Venezuelan people; whereas President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia was forced into exile after an arrest warrant was issued against him and serious threats were made to his life and that of his relatives, preventing him from taking office as the legitimate and democratically elected President of Venezuela;
- E. whereas the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission, in its most recent report to the UN Human Rights Council, determined that the country's repressive apparatus remains fully operational, documenting the violent repression of protests following the presidential election of 28 July, which it described as one of the most acute human rights crises in the country's recent history;
- F. whereas since the presidential election, more than 2 400 people, including EU citizens and dual nationals such as Williams Dávila and Américo de Grazia, two well-known opposition figures, as well as politicians, mayors, journalists and human rights activists, have been arrested, while 200 were injured and 28 were killed; whereas according to the latest data from the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Foro Penal, 1 849 people remain in detention for political reasons, facing multiple irregularities and restrictions affecting their rights to food, health and access to essential legal guarantees in ongoing legal processes;
- G. whereas as the inauguration ceremony was approaching, the imprisonment of dozens of journalists and opposition party leaders and activists resumed, including Edmundo González Urrutia's son-in-law Rafael Tudares, former presidential candidate Enrique Márquez and EU citizens such as Alberto Trentini, an Italian NGO worker arrested in Venezuela in November 2024 without formal charges against him; whereas numerous people are still missing or have disappeared;
- H. whereas the regime has deployed 20 000 special operations forces, including a new rapid response unit established in recent months; whereas checkpoints have been set up and drones are being used to monitor the streets, especially in the capital;
- I. whereas on 9 January 2025, just before Maduro's disputed inauguration, Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado appeared publicly for the first time after 133 days in hiding, at a protest in Caracas, and, as she was leaving the gathering, was arrested by armed officers who shot at her delegation; whereas she was later released;
- J. whereas the 2024 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought was awarded to María Corina Machado, who had been forced to go into hiding for fear of reprisals from the Maduro regime, and to President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia; whereas this is also a tribute to every Venezuelan who resists injustice and oppression, in the struggle for freedom and democracy;
- K. whereas according to the UN Refugee Agency, more than 7.7 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014, the largest exodus in Latin America's recent history and one

of the largest displacement crises in the world;

- L. whereas on 13 January 2025, in a unilateral action, Venezuela announced that it would limit the number of accredited diplomats from France, Italy and the Netherlands;
- M. whereas the EU, Canada, the UK and the US have imposed new sanctions on Maduro-aligned high-level officials responsible for undermining democracy, the rule of law or human rights in Venezuela; whereas these measures aim to intensify international efforts to maintain pressure on Maduro and his representatives, and are not affecting the Venezuelan people or the economy;
  - 1. Deplores the fact that Nicolás Maduro assumed a new term in office without clear evidence to support his election, in the absence of any transparency and respect for the civil and political rights of the Venezuelan people;
  - 2. Calls for the EU and its Member States, as well as the international community, to continue to work for a peaceful and democratic transition in Venezuela so that the preference expressed by the Venezuelan people for President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia, and their legitimate aspirations of freedom and democracy, can finally become reality;
  - 3. Welcomes the fact that several democratic states have already recognised Edmundo González Urrutia as the newly elected president; urges the Venezuelan authorities to revoke the unjustified arrest warrant issued for President-elect González Urrutia;
  - 4. Commends the democratic opposition's resilience and the Venezuelan people's commitment to democracy in the face of repression and adversity; reiterates its support for the will of the Venezuelan people, as expressed at the ballot box, as well as the peaceful restoration of democracy in Venezuela and the release of all unjustly detained political prisoners;
  - 5. Urges the regime to restore constitutional order, the separation of powers and the independence of the branches of government; strongly condemns the violence, arbitrary arrests and detentions, killings and casualties, which occurred after the election and still continue, and expresses its sincere condolences to the relatives of the victims; urges the Venezuelan authorities to halt all human rights abuses and violations and to hold those responsible to account, and to ensure that all fundamental freedoms and human rights are fully respected;
  - 6. Underlines once more the right of all Venezuelans to peacefully demonstrate and freely express their political opinions without fear of reprisal; reiterates its call for the immediate and unconditional release of all the arbitrarily arrested political and social leaders, political prisoners and peaceful protesters;
  - 7. Expresses its concern about the arrest, on 9 January 2025, of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado, who was violently intercepted and briefly arrested after leading a peaceful demonstration in Caracas, on her first public appearance after months of forced hiding;
  - 8. Highlights the fact that Venezuelans are constantly confronted with a humanitarian

crisis and state repression and continue to flee the country in search of better living conditions and safety; expresses its concerns about repercussions on stability and prosperity in the region, including in neighbouring countries;

9. Deplores the latest unilateral decision by the Venezuelan authorities to substantially reduce the accredited diplomatic staff of France, Italy and the Netherlands; urges the Venezuelan authorities to comply with its obligations under international law, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;
10. Takes note of the Venezuelan regime's failure to respect and fully implement the Barbados Agreement in relation to the presidential election, making the holding of free and fair elections impossible;
11. Calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the 15-year disqualification from holding office that was imposed on María Corina Machado, laureate of the 2024 Sakharov Prize, who continues to be forced into hiding for fear of reprisals from the Maduro regime, and the lifting of bans on other political opposition figures, to allow them to stand for election;
12. Deplores Venezuela's alignment with Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Nicaragua and other dictatorial regimes;
13. Welcomes the decision by the EU, Canada, the UK and the US to impose new sanctions on Maduro-aligned high-level officials who are responsible for undermining democracy, the rule of law or human rights in Venezuela;
14. Fully supports the ICC investigations into the Venezuelan regime's extensive crimes and acts of repression and calls for the EU to support the investigations into the alleged crimes against humanity in the country in order to hold those responsible to account;
15. 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 Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, the UN Secretary-General and the Venezuelan authorities.