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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Cristiana Muscardini, Inese Vaidere, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Adam Bielan

on behalf of the UEN Group

on Venezuela: the case of Manuel Rosales

**European Parliament resolution on Venezuela: the case of Manuel Rosales**

*The European Parliament,*

- Having regard to the Euro-Latin American Charter of Human Rights for Peace and Security adopted by the EUROLAT Assembly in Madrid on 8 April 2009
- Having regard to its Resolutions on the same topic and in particular its last Resolution of 23 October 2008 on " political disqualification in Venezuela
- Having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure

A Whereas after winning a referendum to abolish presidential term limits on February 15, Venezuela's president, Hugo Chavez, embarked on "the third phase of his "Bolivian revolution" with more concentration of powers in his hands;

B whereas one of the main traits of such a "revolution" is the repression of dissent with the result that Venezuela's democracy in serious danger of collapse

C whereas the government is picking off its main opponents one by one in order to ensure total control in the country, as is shown by the recent cases of General Baduel , former defence Minister and now member of the opposition, and Antonio Ledezma, mayor of Caracas, whose powers have been reduced,

D whereas Manuel Rosales, the mayor of Maracaibo and the opposition's defeated candidate in the 2006 presidential elections, was forced to go into hiding to avoid arrest on corruption charges,

E whereas these charges are clearly founded on political motivations and the executive largely controls the judiciary and whereas the government is will be taking new measures which will contribute to reducing the autonomy of the judiciary and therefore a fair trial is hardly to be expected in Venezuela,

F whereas Manuel Rosales asked for political asylum in Peru and whereas the Peruvian government decided to grant it and it should be interpreted as a signal which ratifies Rosales's claims to be a victim of political persecution,

- 1 Is deeply concerned about the recent patterns of the Venezuelan government which, behind the logic of a new State founded on socialism, is changing democracy into a really dictatorial regime with no space for the opposition's voices and its major members;

- 2 Welcomes the decision taken by the Peruvian government to grant Manuel Rosales political asylum; considers that, even if Manuel Rosales is actually charged, this government should oppose the international arrest warrant and persist in its refusal to hand him over;
- 3 Considers that the persistent attitude of the government led by Chavez clearly contradicts the founding principles of the strategic partnership between the European Union and Latin America as well as the recently adopted Charter for Peace and Security; therefore calls on the European Commission and the Bureau of EUROLAT Assembly to put on the agenda for one of its next meetings the issue of the serious risk of collapse of democracy in Venezuela, including the present case of Manuel Rosales;
- 4 Urges the Venezuelan Government also to comply with the international agreements signed and ratified by Venezuela, including the American Convention on Human Rights, with specific reference to the provisions on political rights set out in Articles 23(1) and Articles 2 and 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- 5 Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the governments and the Parliaments of the Member States and candidate states and the government of Venezuela.