

**Question for written answer E-001481/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

**Jorge Martín Frías (PFE), Hermann Tertsch (PFE), Kinga Gál (PFE), António Tânger
Corrêa (PFE)**

Subject: European Union sanctions on Venezuela

In November 2017, the European Union (EU) imposed sanctions against Venezuela in response to the continuing deterioration of democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Venezuela. These sanctions included an embargo on arms and on equipment used for internal repression, as well as asset freezes and a travel ban on 54 listed individuals¹. Sanctions have never persuaded the Venezuelan Government to end its political repression. On 13 May 2024, the EU temporarily lifted sanctions against the head of Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE) and three former officials². This decision was backed by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), Mr Josep Borrell, following a proposal by the Spanish Government. On 28 July 2024, the Venezuelan regime indisputably rigged the presidential elections³. The autocrat Nicolás Maduro has claimed victory against the opposition candidate, Edmundo González.

What political justification drove the Commission and the VP/HR to help the Venezuelan regime by lifting the sanctions imposed on members of the CNE, which is the institution directly responsible for the internationally denounced electoral fraud?

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¹ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/760416/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)760416_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/760416/EPRS_BRI(2024)760416_EN.pdf).

² https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-05-13/eu-suspends-sanctions-on-venezuela-official-ahead-of-election?utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm_source=twitter&utm_content=business&cmpid=socialflow-twitter-business&utm_medium=social.

³ <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2024/07/11/a-new-danger-for-venezuelas-autocrat>.