

**Question for written answer E-002279/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Antonio López-Istúriz White (PPE)

Subject: Situation in Venezuela

Since 12 February last there have been several demonstrations in Venezuela involving clashes between the opposition and the government's National Guard. As a result of these demonstrations 13 people have been killed, 48 have been imprisoned and 712 have been arrested, as the president himself, Nicolás Maduro, has stated, although they were later freed after questioning.

In this context, the opposition led by Enrique Capriles is asking for the demonstrations to continue and, as a result of the lack of dialogue between the two sides, no meetings are envisaged between the government and the opposition in the short term.

On behalf of the European Union, Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, has expressed her concern regarding the situation in Venezuela. She has condemned the use of violence by both sides and has called on the government and the opposition to talk. She also said she has been alarmed by the arrest of students and political figures.

What measures does the Commission intend to adopt to contribute on behalf of the European Union to avoiding any further increase in the number of victims in Venezuela and to bring to an end as soon as possible the tense situation currently reigning there?