

Question for written answer E-001299/2024

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Leopoldo López Gil (PPE), Pilar del Castillo Vera (PPE), Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE), Gabriel Mato (PPE), Ana Collado Jiménez (PPE), José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (PPE), Javier Zarzalejos (PPE), Antonio López-Istúriz White (PPE), Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Javier Nart (Renew), José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew), Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE), María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos (Renew)

Subject: EU election exploratory mission to Venezuela

On 7 April 2024, the External Action Service (EEAS) sent an EU election exploratory mission to Venezuela, following an official invitation from government authorities to observe the presidential elections scheduled for 28 July.

According to the Handbook for EU Election Observation, such missions aim to gather information and identify issues that may affect the election process. To this end, members of the exploratory mission meet with a wide range of interlocutors: state and electoral authorities, political actors, civil society and media.

Bearing in mind the complexity of the current political situation in Venezuela, this exploratory mission met with candidates Maduro and Rosales, yet it did not hold face-to-face meetings with key opposition figures such as María Corina Machado, who won the primary elections, Corina Yoris or Edmundo González.

1. Given that the main objective of exploratory missions is to listen to all political quarters in the country, what was the EEAS's criterion for setting up meetings as part of the exploratory mission?
2. Does the VP/HR consider that stakeholders from the full breadth of Venezuela's current political spectrum were represented in a balanced way at those meetings?
3. Can a report which excluded the most representative legitimate opposition from its interviews be considered fair?

Submitted:25.4.2024