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Plenary sitting

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<TitreType>MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION</TitreType>

<TitreSuite>to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy</TitreSuite>

<TitreRecueil>pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure</TitreRecueil>

<Titre>on the situation in Venezuela </Titre>

<DocRef>(2018/2559(RSP))</DocRef>

<RepeatBlock-By><Depute>Javier Couso Permuy, Paloma López Bermejo, João Ferreira, João Pimenta Lopes, Miguel Viegas, Marina Albiol Guzmán, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Neoklis Sylikiotis, Ángela Vallina, Nikolaos Chountis, Eleonora Forenza, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez</Depute>

<Commission>{GUE/NGL}on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group</Commission>

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B8‑0094/2018

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela

(2018/2559(RSP))

*The European Parliament*,

– having regard to Chapter 1, Article 1(2) of the UN Charter of 1945, with its stated purpose ‘to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace’,

– having regard to the principle of non-intervention laid down in the UN Charter,

– having regard to Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which state that ‘all peoples have the right of self-determination’ and that ‘by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development’,

– having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,

– having regard to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961,

– having regard to all the bi-regional declarations adopted in the Summits by the Heads of State and Government of the EU and CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) since Rio de Janeiro in 1999, including the declaration of the Summit of 27 January 2013, in which the signatories reaffirmed their commitment to all the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and their support for all efforts to uphold sovereign equality of all states and to respect their territorial integrity and political independence,

– having regard to the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, agreed at the CELAC Summits held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014, Belen, Costa Rica in 2015 and Quito, Ecuador in 2016,

– having regard to the previous statements on the situation in Venezuela by Mercosur, UNASUR and CELAC, in particular the declarations of rejection of the US’s unilateral coercive measures against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

– having regard to the previous statements by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on Venezuela,

– having regard to its previous resolutions on Venezuela,

– having regard to the election of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as a member of the UN Human Rights Council and to the conclusions of the most recent Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review on Venezuela,

– having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has denounced on a number of occasions the external interference, destabilisation, disinformation campaigns, manipulation of public opinion and violence promoted by some sectors of the opposition against sovereignty, independence, peace and the democratic stability of the country, and against the Venezuelan people;

B. whereas the EU has made several statements with the intention of interfering in and conditioning the internal situation in Venezuela;

C. whereas in May 2016, at the request and initiative of President Nicolás Maduro, a Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) committee was set up to advance efforts to promote dialogue between the Government of Venezuela and the opposition to address issues of fundamental importance to the nation;

D. whereas since December 2017, the Venezuelan Government and sectors of the opposition have been pursuing a dialogue in the Dominican Republic, in the presence of high-ranking international observers as well as the Dominican President, with a view to finding a solution to the political crisis in Venezuela;

E. whereas a new round of talks is currently being held in the same location;

F. whereas every act that affects the diplomatic efforts to find a path towards dialogue and peace among Venezuelans should be avoided;

G. whereas unilateral coercive measures are contrary to established international law; whereas the UN, and in particular its Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, has repeatedly stressed this; whereas sanctions cause disruption to any state and, when they harm the economy, can have a devastating impact on the citizens of developing countries;

H. whereas dialogue is the basis for the peaceful settlement of conflicts and internal situations in all countries; whereas the Member States must encourage a constructive dialogue with the Venezuelan Government in order to find solutions to the concrete problems that now exist in that country;

I. whereas all major political decisions, such as the decision to call snap elections, should be taken within the framework of a national dialogue, in compliance with Venezuelan law and the Constitution;

J. whereas participation in these elections should occur under equal, fair and transparent conditions, supervised by a balanced National Electoral Council (CNE), with sufficient guarantees for all participants, including the presence of independent international observers;

K. whereas there is a widespread fear that the dynamics of permanent confrontation on both sides are preventing the adoption of a stabilising solution that is democratically legitimised by the country;

1. Strongly condemns the permanent external interference in and political, economic and social destabilisation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

2. Insists that persisting in pursuing an interventionist strategy against the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a far cry from creating space for dialogue and peace;

3. Reaffirms the right of the Venezuelan people to decide sovereignly, independently and peacefully on a path of development free from any external interference or pressure, and that a solution to the current multiple crises and the achievement of political stability can only be found through peaceful negotiations;

4. Recalls reports from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean (CEPAL) and UN independent experts that the so-called humanitarian crisis does not exist in Venezuela;

5. Denounces claims of an alleged ‘humanitarian crisis’ in Venezuela by those seeking to increase external interference and defending a campaign for intervention in the country;

6. Condemns the decision of the US and the EU to keep imposing sanctions against Venezuela and its people;

7. Stresses that dialogue with third countries should not under any circumstances result in restrictions being imposed on the right of peoples to self-determination;

8. Endorses the principles contained in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, and urges the entire international community to fully respect this proclamation in its relations with CELAC countries, including through a commitment not to intervene directly or indirectly in the internal affairs of any other state and to observe the principles of national sovereignty, equal rights and the self-determination of peoples;

9. Recalls the importance of Venezuela’s role in the creation and strengthening of a cooperation and integration process for the benefit of the peoples of Latin America; underlines the significant progress made in regional integration and cooperation to the benefit of the peoples of Latin America;

10. Is of the opinion that the political and social stability of Venezuela is a decisive factor in the safeguarding of peace in the entire region;

11. Rejects any international call that departs from the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, which include unrestricted respect for non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of states, in any country and in any continent or region of the world, bearing in mind that these principles are enshrined in the treaties of the EU;

12. Supports the efforts of the Venezuelan authorities, the democratic opposition and the Venezuelan people to find for themselves the answers to their political and economic challenges and to promote the consolidation of the national dialogue in Venezuela, with a view to the improvement of living conditions and the economic and social development of Venezuela;

13. Welcomes the ongoing dialogue in the Dominican Republic, supports fully the mediation efforts made by EU and other politicians, including former Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, and expresses its hope that all national and international actors support this process;

14. Strongly recommends the inclusion in this political dialogue of a national agreement on economic policy to stabilise the situation;

15. Calls on all actors within and outside the country to maintain prudence and patience and to refrain from any acts of or calls for violence, which would further destabilise and ultimately derail the country;

16. Calls on political actors outside Venezuela to avoid using the situation in the country for national political purposes;

17. Recognises the right of the Venezuelan people to participate in the presidential elections according to their internal rules and procedures and their Constitution;

18. 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 governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government and authorities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and the Latin American regional bodies, including the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).