



Member of the European Parliament

Brussels, 18 December 2018

Dear President Tajani,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are deeply disturbed by the current situation in Venezuela, which is undergoing a period of grave humanitarian and economic crisis, which stems from a political crisis. The situation of human rights, democracy and rule of law in Venezuela continues to deteriorate resulting in the unprecedented political, social, economic and humanitarian crisis.

The Venezuelan government has dismantled the constitutional guarantees for the exercise of political rights. The elections had to be held this December 2018 but the Head of State, Nicolás Maduro decided in an illicit manner to move forward the presidential elections for the month of May 2018 not to lose an election. The elections held on 20 May 2018 were conducted without complying with the minimum international standards for a credible process and failed to respect political pluralism, democracy, transparency and the rule of law. Illegitimate elections were given no international recognition, took place without an agreement on the date or conditions, and did not allow the participation of all political parties on equal footing

On **January 10, 2019**, a **new presidential period** begins according to the Constitution of Venezuela. The Head of State, **Nicolás Maduro**, intends to take possession even though he was not elected in free or credible elections. Nicolás Maduro **cannot be considered a legitimate president of Venezuela**.

We urge the European Parliament to disregard the Head of State, Nicolás Maduro, as the legitimate president of Venezuela from the act of possession on January 10, 2019.

Despite the readiness of the international community, the Venezuelan Government remains obstinate in its denial of the problem and its refusal to openly receive and facilitate the distribution of international humanitarian aid. As a result more than three million people have already been forced to leave the country because of hunger and disease. The health system has also collapsed resulting in a severe shortage of medicines and equipment. The current situation is the worst economic crisis in Venezuela's history with sparing hunger, disease, crime and death rates, massive emigration from the country and hyperinflation (according to the IMF estimation will soar to 13 000 % in 2018, up from an estimated 2400 % in 2017, resulting in price increases of, on average, almost 1,5 % every hour).

The European Union and the international community must demand fresh presidential elections in accordance with internationally recognised democratic standards and the Venezuelan constitutional order, within a transparent, equal and international monitoring framework,



having regard to the European Parliament's 7 previous resolutions and in particular the resolution of 3 May 2018 on the elections in Venezuela. Only the realization of free and credible elections in Venezuela will address the current economic and social crisis in Venezuela and ensure national reconciliation.

We must stand united in protecting our fundamental values and we therefore call on you, in your capacity as the President of the European Parliament, to take a stand in this matter.

Yours sincerely

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