

Standing Up for the Democratic Rights of the Venezuelan People

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 2-3 of June 2017:

Considering:

- the increasing concentration of power in the Executive and the extraordinary assumption of competences by the Supreme Court, together with the unconstitutional hollowing out of the democratically-elected National Assembly, bringing about what amounts to a dictatorial regime;
- the blatant repression of political dissent, imprisoning opposition journalists, activists and political figures, including more than 100 political prisoners being deprived of their human rights according to Penal Forum Venezuela[1];
- the brutal reaction to recent peaceful protests against the government, with reports of dozens of deaths[2] and hundreds of protesters being sent to military courts, subject to physical mistreatment among other rights violations;
- the severe mismanagement of the economy of Venezuela, producing a humanitarian crisis with shortages of basic goods and reports of widespread malnutrition and disease.

Acknowledging:

- ALDE's commitment to the principles of separation of powers, rule of law, freedom of expression and assembly, pluralistic democracy, and the right to a fair trial as paramount pillars of democratic society;
- the obligations of the government of Venezuela as a member of United Nations and a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
- the historical, economic and human ties of the Venezuelan and European peoples.

Calls for:

- all EU Member States to recall their ambassadors for consultations should President Maduro continue with his intention to convene a constituent assembly disrupting the current constitutional order in Venezuela;
- the European Commission and all EU Member States to apply the maximum pressure to the Venezuelan government until it respects the legal competences of the National Assembly in accordance with the Venezuelan constitution and it releases all political prisoners;

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- the ALDE Group in the European Parliament to propose targeted sanctions against Venezuelan Officials who have committed human rights violations.

[1] www.nytimes.com/2017/03/31/world/americas/venezuela-political-prisoners-nicolas-maduro.html

[2] www.dw.com/en/death-toll-rises-as-protests-continue-in-venezuela/a-38929699

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