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JOINT <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 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure</TitreRecueil>

<Titre>on the humanitarian situation in Venezuela and migration and refugee crisis<RepeatBlock-By><Depute> </Depute>

<RepeatBlock-By><Depute>Dolores Montserrat, <RepeatBlock-By><Depute>Esteban González Pons, Leopoldo Lopez Gil, Paulo Rangel, Antonio Tajani, David McAllister, Gabriel Mato, Antonio López‑Istúriz White, Claudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Miriam Lexmann, Vladimir Bilcik, Ivan Stefanec, Michal Wiezik, Peter Pollak

<Commission>{PPE}on behalf of the EPP Group

...on behalf of the ... <Commission>{S&D}S&D Group

... on behalf of the Renew Europe group

... on behalf of the ECR Group

</Commission>

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**European Parliament resolution on the humanitarian situation in Venezuela and migration and refugee crisis**

*The European Parliament*,

* having regard to its previous resolutions on Venezuela, in particular that of 16 January 2020 on the parliamentary coup in Venezuela,
* having regards to the statement of 1 April 2020 by the spokesperson for the Vice - President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on the US proposal and the situation in the context of the coronavirus pandemic in Venezuela,
* having regard to the UN experts’ statement of 30 April 2020 on the health emergency situation in Venezuela,
* having regard to the UN experts’ press release of 6 May 2020 on the devastating impact of the country’s humanitarian and economic crisis on human rights,
* having regard to the High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's Human Rights Report on Venezuela of 2 July 2020,
* having regard to the joint UNHRC/ IOM press release of 1 April 2020 on the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela during the COVID-19 crisis,
* having regard to the statement of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States on the situation in Venezuela of January 5, 2020 and of 26 June 2020,
* having regard to the Group of Lima statements of 2 February, 3 March, 4 April and 16 June 2020,
* having regard to the statements of 4 and 16 June 2020 by the spokesperson for the Vice - President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on the latest developments on Venezuela,
* having regard to its Foreign Affairs Committee statement of 11 June 2020 on the recent attacks on Venezuela’s National Assembly,
* having regard to the International Contact Group statement of 16 June 2020 on undermined credibility of the Venezuelan electoral body; and of 24 June 2020 on the worsening political crisis in Venezuela,
* having regard to the Council decision (CFSP) 2020/898 of 29 June 2020 adding 11 leading Venezuelan officials to the list of those subject to restrictive measures,
* having regard to the International Donors Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants om 26 May 2020,
* having regard to the Venezuelan constitution,
* having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,
* having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A.whereas the European Union and its Member States have been supporting for years the Venezuelan population and the communities hosting refugees; whereas on 26 May 2020, the European Union and the Government of Spain, with the support of the UNHRC and the IOM convened an International Donors Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants; whereas international donors pledged a total of €2.544 billion of which  €595 million in direct grants, the rest being just conditional loans; whereas during the conference some of the borrowers expressed their concern about the bureaucratic difficulties and complicated regulatory frameworks to obtain the loans; whereas the €595 million will hardly reach the necessary level to cope with the annual consequences of such an unprecedented crisis in the neighbouring countries; whereas the international community need to find innovative solutions to other possible financial resources to help the Venezuelan people address their emergency needs beyond humanitarian and longer-term cooperation aid;

B.whereas the EU assistance amounts to over €319 million both inside and outside Venezuela; whereas €156 million are devoted to humanitarian assistance, €136 million for development and €27 million for stability and peace;

C. whereas the already dire political, economic, institutional, social and multidimensional humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has significantly worsened and aggravated during this pandemic; whereas increased shortages of medicines and food, massive human rights violations, hyperinflation, political oppression, corruption and violence are endangering people’s lives and forcing them to flee the country;

D. whereas a growing number of people in Venezuela, in particular vulnerable groups such as women, children and sick people, are suffering from malnutrition as a consequence of limited access to quality health services, medicines, food and water;

E. whereas the Venezuelan national health system has been significantly weakened due to the mishandling by the regime resulting in critical shortages of medicine and aclack of medical treatments; whereas the figures related to the COVID 19 illness provided by the regime lack the credibility and the trust of the domestic as well the international community;

F. whereas the current multidimensional crisis in Venezuela is generating the largest population displacement ever seen in the region; whereas there are around 5 million Venezuelans who fled the country, with 80 percent of them displaced in countries in the region; whereas according to the UNHCR, the Venezuelan refugee crisis stands for the second biggest one in the world after Syria; whereas it is expected that by the end of 2020, the total numbers of those fleeing the worsening conditions in Venezuela could surpass 6.5 million people;

G. whereas according to the UNHCR, there is a 2 000 percent increase in the number of Venezuelans seeking asylum worldwide; whereas 650 000 have filled asylum claims and about 2 million have obtained resident permits to stay in the Americas; whereas 12 percent of the population has fled the country and people continue to leave at an average of 5 000 per day;

H. whereas the current global public health emergency has compounded an already desperate situation for many refugees and migrants from Venezuela, and their hosts countries; whereas many of them depend on insufficient daily wages to cover basic needs such as shelter, food and healthcare;

I. whereas according to the first reports of the pandemic overwhelming the country’s debilitated health care system, hospitals are filled with coronavirus patients and dozens of health workers have been infected;

J. whereas on 26 May 2020, the illegitimate  Supreme Court of Venezuela controlled by the Maduro regime unjustifiably ratified Mr. Luis Parra as President of the National Assembly; whereas such an illegal  session which took place on January 2020 did not respect the legal procedure nor the democratic constitutional principles by preventing, in some cases by force, the large  majority of the democratically elected representatives from being present during the session and consequently casting their votes; whereas such an illegal decision resulting from this illegitimate body, among other recent antidemocratic actions, has led the Council of the EU to impose sanctions on an additional 11 responsible officials for such behaviour, including Mr. Luis Parra; and Juan Jose Mendoza, President of the constitutional chamber of the Supreme Court; whereas Juan Guaido has excluded himself from a transitional government, and Maduro cannot be part of such a government;

K. whereas on 13 June 2020, once again this illegitimate Supreme Court (TSJ) appointed new members to the National Electoral Council (CNE) without any legal power to do so; whereas according to the Articles 187 and 296 of the Venezuelan Constitution, these appointments are the sole and exclusive responsibility of the National Assembly, a body democratically elected by Venezuelan citizens**;** whereas the European Parliament will not recognize any decision nor any ruling that is unilaterally taken by these illegitimate bodies; whereas those officials responsible for such decisions have also been included to the EU Council sanction list;

L. whereas Mr Maduro had ordered the European Union’s ambassador to leave the country within 72 hours after the bloc imposed targeted sanctions on several official responsible for serious human rights breaches and had also threatened the ambassador of Spain with further reprisals; whereas there were reports in May of harassment against the French embassy in Caracas, including by cutting water and electricity to the ambassador’s residence**;** whereas the regime has decided to reverse that decision and not to expel the EU ambassador;

M. whereas Nicolas Maduro’s regime has lashed out against the political parties *Accion Democratica, Primero Justicia* and *Un Nuevo Tiempo* by systematic persecution through rulings of the illegitimate Supreme Court of Justice, in which it strips the parties from their current National Directorates against the will of its members; whereas the democratic political party *Voluntad Popular* was determined as a terrorist organization by Maduro’s regime;

N. whereas the democratic international community, including the European Union, firmly rejected this electoral farce and have strongly rejected such illegal actions; whereas this **action** further reduced the democratic space in the country to the bare minimum and created profound obstacles to the resolution of the political crisis in Venezuela; whereas the formation of a balanced and inclusive national emergency government composed of all democratic political and social sectors of the country being able to address the current humanitarian needs is essential in order to overcome the escalating crisis;

O. whereas the respect of international standards, an independent and balanced CNE as well as a level playing field ensuring the unimpeded participation of political parties and candidates are the cornerstone for a credible electoral process, enabling free and fair legislative andpresidential elections;

P. whereas illicit financing and foreign interferences from the regime in elections pose a significant threat to European democracies;

Q. whereas the implementation of EU foreign affairs decisions are in the hands of national authorities but the EU has a responsibility to monitor the implementation of EU law;

R. whereas on 12 June 2020 authorities in Cape Verde arrested Alex Saab, a businessman who has been implicated in several corruption schemes involving the Maduro regime, and now awaits a judicial decision and possible extradition; whereas the Saab case illustrates how pervasive corruption has become in Venezuela while the country experiences an unprecedented humanitarian crisis; whereas the country ranks 173rd out of 180 in Transparency International’s Corruption Index;

S. whereas the number of political prisoners has increased since mass civil unrest began in 2014, and currently stands at approximately 430; whereas 11 Europeans are also reported to be detained in Venezuela; whereas many accounts of torture by the regime are currently under pre-investigation by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity; whereas repression, arbitrary detentions and torture have increased during the COVID-19 crisis; whereas the High Commissioner Bachelet's report on Venezuela from 2 July 2020 documented over 1300 extrajudicial killings by security forces since 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2020;

T. whereas the Maduro regime fails to provide transparent information, accept the international humanitarian assistance and prioritize the needs and rights of the most vulnerable parts of the population; whereas on 1 June, an Agreement was signed between Maduro’s Ministry of People’s Power for Health and the National Assembly’s Advisory team for COVID19 to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to Venezuela apolitically through the Pan American Health Organization; whereas over the years, the regime has rejected any form of humanitarian aid;

U.whereas the Maduro regime has, since 2016, supported illegal artisanal gold mining in the Venezuelan Amazon to finance irregular armed groups which would then be taken out of the country through irregular channels to be sold and exchanged illicitly abroad; whereas this so-called blood gold is extracted and exploited under illegal and criminal conditions which seriously threaten both human rights and the environment;

V.whereas effective actions are needed to stop the security threat to the wider region, represented by the links between the dictatorial regime of Maduro, terrorist groups and organized armed groups operating their criminal activities in Venezuela;

1. Reiterates its deep concerns at the severe emergency of the humanitarian situation, which is profoundly endangering the lives of Venezuelans; expresses its solidarity with all Venezuelans forced to flee their country because of the lack of very basic living conditions, such as access to food, drinking water, health services and medicines;

2. Draws attention to the worsening migratory crisis across the entire region, namely on Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Panama, Argentina and some EU Member States and Caribbean territories, especially under extremely difficult circumstances aggravated by the fight against the pandemic; praises the efforts and solidarity shown by neighbouring countries and territories; asks the Commission and the European External Action Service to continue cooperating with these countries, not only by providing humanitarian assistance but also by providing more resources and through development policy;

3. Urges the Venezuelan authorities to recognise the ongoing humanitarian crisis, prevent its further deterioration and promote political and economic solutions to ensure the safety of all civilians and stability for the country and the region;takes note of the agreement reached on the fight against COVID-19 together with the PHO.

4. Urgently calls to prevent the aggravation of the humanitarian and public health crisis, and in particular the reappearance of diseases such as measles, malaria, diphtheria and foot-and-mouth disease; calls for the rapid implementation of a short-term response to counter malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children and sick people;

5. Welcomes the pledges and efforts of an International Donors Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants;calls in this regards for reduced bureaucracy and a simplified framework that can ensure the pledges reach those that are in desperate need as soon as possible;

6. Strongly rejects the violations of the democratic, constitutional and transparent functioning of the National Assembly, as well as the intimidations, violence and arbitrary decisions against its Members; denounces undemocratic appointment of new members to the National Electoral Council (CNE) and stripping the parties from their current National Directorates against the will of its members;

7. Reiterates its acknowledgement that, as a result of the transparent and democratic vote of the National Assembly, Juan Guaidó is the legitimate President of the National Assembly and the legitimate interim President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in accordance with Article 223 of the Venezuelan Constitution;

8. Reiterates its full support for the National Assembly, which is the only legitimately elected democratic body of Venezuela and whose powers need to be respected, including the prerogatives**,** immunity and safety of its members; insists that a peaceful and political solution can only be reached by fully respecting the National Assembly’s constitutional prerogatives;

9. Recalls that respecting democratic institutions and principles and upholding the rule of law are essential conditions for finding a solution to the crisis in Venezuela for the benefit of its people; therefore urgently calls for the creation of conditions leading to free, transparent and credible presidential and legislative elections based on a fixed calendar, fair conditions for all actors, transparency and the presence of credible international observers as the only way out of the crisis, thereby excluding any violent or military action;

10. Calls on the EU and other international actors to mobilize a response from the international community that contributes to the urgent restoration of democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela;

11.Recalls that Member States are legally bound by Council Decision  2017/2074 to implement the restrictive measures contained therein, notably the prevention of the entry into, or transit through, their territories of the persons to which the restrictive measures apply and the obligation to inform immediately in writing of any exemptions granted by a Member State;

12. Notes the recent Council decision extending the targeted sanctions on 11 additional individuals, which do not harm the Venezuelan population, and calls to strengthen and expand these should the situation of human rights and democracy in the country continue to deteriorate; considers that the EU authorities must consequently restrict the movements of these individuals, as well as of their closest relatives, and freeze their assets and visas; further calls for the immediate ban on the trade and circulation of illegal blood gold from Venezuela;

13. Strongly regrets the announcement of Mr Maduro to withdraw the EU Ambassador from Caracas as a form of retaliation for imposed sanctions on 11 officials responsible for serious human rights violations; in this sense takes note of the HR/VP initial statement announcing reciprocity and calls on the Member States that in case this threat happens again to also consider acting under the principle of reciprocity, revoking the credentials of Maduro’s Ambassadors in the EU; Reiterates thecall to Member States to recognise the political representatives appointed by Juan Guaido;

14. Denounces the rampant corruption which has become an integral part of the Maduro regime; denounces the funding and the foreign interference of the Maduro regime; strongly denounces and deplores cases of corruption including those under judiciary investigation in Member States;

15. Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners and an end to the torture, ill-treatment and harassment of political opponents, human rights activists and peaceful protesters; and the return of those unfairly under forced exile;

16. Fully supports the investigations of the International Criminal Court (ICC) into the extensive crimes and acts of repression perpetrated by the Venezuelan regime; urges the European Union to support the initiative of ICC State Parties to investigate on crimes against humanity committed by the de facto Maduro government and so holding those responsible accountable;

17.Takes note of the decision of the British Court of 2 July 2020, which unequivocally recognises the democratic legitimacy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela through its President Juan Guaido by giving him legal access to the Republic's gold reserves;

18. Requests the dispatching of a European Parliament fact‑finding mission to the country in order to assess the situation;

19. 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 legitimate interim President of the Republic and National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the governments and parliaments of the Lima Group countries, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States.