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Answer given by High Representative / Vice President Borrell
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.8.2020)

The European Union's policy aims at a political and democratic solution to the multidimensional crisis in Venezuela, through credible presidential and parliamentary elections. To this end, the EU has been combining targeted restrictive measures, with efforts to promote conditions enabling a negotiated way out of the crisis. Restrictive measures will remain part of the EU strategy, but on its own, it will not be enough to bring about a sustainable solution.

The EU will continue working with all key regional and international players, including through the International Contact Group and the Special Adviser on Venezuela, Enrique Iglesias, to promote a genuine and inclusive process towards a reinstatement of democracy and the rule of law, through free and fair presidential elections. At the same time, the EU continues to support civil society organisations in the country, in order to foster resilience of actors for a potential transition.

The EU encourages Venezuela to enforce legal guarantees and constitutional provisions related to the right to a fair trial. Venezuela should also ensure a transparent process against all detainees and release all political prisoners. It should also collaborate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and grant unrestricted access to all political prisoners and their trials. The EU is providing support to ensure in-country presence of the OHCHR.

All national actors need to urgently and seriously engage in a peaceful and democratic solution.