



**PARTIDO COMUNISTA DE ESPAÑA**

***Partido Comunista de España***

*Secretaría de Relaciones Internacionales*

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**The Communist Party of Spain rejects the European Union's support to the U.S. plans for Venezuela.**

Last week, Trump's Administration charged Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro and senior government officials with drug trafficking and conspiring with terrorists, offering cash rewards of up to 55m dollars for information leading to Maduro. After that, the U.S. deployed Navy ships towards Venezuela. This deployment is one of the largest U.S. military operations in the region in the last decade, and now, Trump has presented a plan to overcome Maduro's presidency called "Democratic Transition Framework".

The European Union last Friday welcomed this U.S. plan, said the EU's diplomatic chief Josep Borrell in a statement on behalf of all 27 members of the bloc. However, this goes against Venezuela's Constitution and the United Nations Charter, representing an external interference on the sovereignty and freedom of Venezuela. The plan is another attempt to divert attention from the ineffective measures towards stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the U.S. as President Trump has prioritize the economic interests over any effort to suppress the coronavirus.

The European Union cannot renounce to have its own independent voice from the U.S., and must call for a sanction ceasefire in Venezuela as in a context of global pandemic, impeding medical efforts in one country heightens the risk for all of us. Besides, it would represent a violation of the international humanitarian law - established in the Geneva Convention of 1949 and its additional protocols-, as it goes against the right of medical attention in times of pandemics or armed conflicts.

The EU should pay attention and follow the recommendations of Ms. Alena Douhan, the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights of the United Nations. In recent declarations, Ms. Douhan expressed that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, and international humanitarian law, and highlighted that on long-term, these measures may result in social problems and raise humanitarian concerns in the States targeted. She also claimed the deep-rooted problems and grievances within the international system and in order to ensure multilateralism, mutual respect and peaceful settlement of disputes must be respected.





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In light of this context, the PCE:

- Expresses solidarity with the Government of Venezuela and its president Nicolás Maduro.
- Condemns the EU support and attitude towards the U.S. plan to overcome a legitimate president in Venezuela.
- Calls upon the EU to stand against any kind of unilateral sanctions, and especially those against Venezuela.

