

Question for written answer E-003297/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero's ties to Maduro's narco-dictatorship

Zapatero has gone from being Spanish Prime Minister to being a defender of Venezuela's dictatorship, acting publicly as advisor to, and close associate of, both the dictatorship led by Maduro, head of the Soles cartel (drug trafficking crime group), and Pedro Sánchez, President of Spain, representing him in negotiations with other party leaders, including fugitive coup leader Puigdemont.

While Europe and the US call out Venezuela as a dictatorship involved in organised crime and transnational drug trafficking¹, Zapatero travels to Caracas in the guise of 'mediator', lending international legitimacy to a criminal regime.

The US has doubled its reward for the capture of Maduro (USD 50 million), linking him to the Soles cartel and terrorist organisations such as Tren de Aragua and the Sinaloa cartel².

The involvement of Zapatero and his socialist accomplices provides Maduro with political oxygen. At the same time, Zapatero gains visibility, prominence and a source of income, with little concern for the fact that he is whitewashing one of the most wanted narco-dictators and selling out the democratic values of Spain and the European Union.

In view of the above:

Is the Commission concerned about the permanent and close ties between members of governing parties in Europe, such as Spain's PSOE, and regimes with proven links to drug trafficking?

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¹ <https://2021-2025.state.gov/office-of-the-spokesperson/releases/2025/01/condemning-nicolas-maduros-illegitimate-attempt-to-seize-power-in-venezuela-and-announcing-new-actions-against-maduro-and-his-representatives-and-to-support-the-venezuelan-people/?safe=1>.

² <https://www.state.gov/reward-offer-increase-of-up-to-50-million-for-information-leading-to-arrest-and-or-conviction-of-nicolas-maduro>.