

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000309/25

to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Antonio López-Istúriz White (PPE), Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Javier Zarzalejos (PPE), Raúl de la Hoz Quintano (PPE), Nicolás Pascual de la Parte (PPE), Alma Ezcurra Almansa (PPE), Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE), Borja Giménez Larraz (PPE), Adrián Vázquez Lázara (PPE), Esther Herranz García (PPE), Pilar del Castillo Vera (PPE), Fernando Navarrete Rojas (PPE), Pablo Arias Echeverría (PPE), Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Maravillas Abadía Jover (PPE), Carmen Crespo Díaz (PPE), Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez (PPE), Gabriel Mato (PPE), Susana Solís Pérez (PPE), Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE), Elena Nevado del Campo (PPE), Esteban González Pons (PPE)

(23 January 2025)

Subject: Potential security risks and geopolitical implications of the Iran-Venezuela alliance for the EU

Recent reports indicate that, alongside Russia's presence in Venezuela, there is an expanding strategic alliance between Iran and Nicolás Maduro's regime. This alliance encompasses military cooperation, the establishment of a drone production base in Venezuela and economic transactions designed to circumvent international sanctions. These activities include the deployment of advanced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), collaboration between the Iranian Quds Force and Venezuelan authorities, and the exchange of Venezuelan gold for Iranian crude oil through channels that violate international sanctions frameworks.

Given the EU's commitment to maintaining regional and global stability, countering terrorism and enforcing international sanctions:

1. Is the VP/HR aware of these developments, and has she assessed their potential impact on the security and geopolitical stability of Latin America and the spillover effects on the EU?
2. What measures is the VP/HR taking to ensure that this partnership does not undermine the possibility of restoring democracy in Venezuela, nor hinder the EU's efforts to counter terrorism, the proliferation of advanced weaponry and the circumvention of international sanctions?
3. How does the VP/HR plan to address the risks this alliance poses to the EU's interests in Latin America, and what specific actions will she take to uphold the EU's stance on regional and global security?

Submitted: 23.1.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission

(25 March 2025)

The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) is aware that Venezuela cooperates with Russia on defence matters, conducting joint military exercises and receiving military training.

Iran has maintained oil deals with Caracas in order to circumvent sanctions and obtain financial resources. The EU monitors those developments closely.

The rapprochement between Caracas, Moscow and Tehran is of concern due to potential impact on democratic stability in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region and on the EU-LAC partnership.

As the HR/VP said at the Munich Security Conference ⁽¹⁾, the EU has to keep united and work with allies, including the United States, to counter the attempts of Russia, Iran and others to team up against the EU.

For this reason, it is crucial to continue supporting the democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people, to promote an enabling environment for civil society and to uphold human rights.

Working together with key international and regional partners is essential to foster a Venezuelan-led democratic resolution to the crisis.

In doing so, the EU will pursue targeted engagement to address concerns and facilitate meaningful dialogue on human rights and the transition to democracy.

The EU will continue to protect shared values and mutual interests in Latin America. The EU has mobilised all its foreign policy instruments to foster democracy in Venezuela, including targeted sanctions against those responsible for undermining democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and by putting in place an embargo on arms and equipment used for repression.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/munich-security-conference-press-remarks-high-representativevice-president-kaja-kallas-upon-arrival_en?channel=eeas_press_alerts&date=2025-02-14&newsid=0&langid=en&source=mail