

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000075/26
to the Commission**

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(12 January 2026)**

Subject: The EU and respect for international law in the light of its flagrant violation by the United States against Venezuela

The United States, under the leadership of US President Donald Trump, has resorted to several infringements of international law against Venezuela. The reported bombings of boats off Venezuela's coast involving extrajudicial killings and the seizure of oil tankers culminated in a full-scale unilateral and illegal military attack and the abduction of the country's President. Such actions constitute flagrant violations of mandatory international law rules (*jus cogens*), as established by the UN Charter and in customary international law and reiterated by the International Court of Justice; namely, the prohibition on the use of force, respect for the sovereign equality of states and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states, including their political/economic or social systems.

Considering that Venezuela holds the world's largest confirmed oil reserves, President Trump's statements for strong US involvement, and most provokingly that the US will 'run' Venezuela, in juxtaposition with the Venezuelan political opposition's intentions to privatise these reserves, reveal a precarious course for international relations.

1. How does the Commission intend to address the above-mentioned violations considering that Article 3(5) of the Treaty on European Union stipulates observance of the UN Charter's principles?
2. Isn't the Commission concerned that inconsistent reactions challenge the EU's political integrity and render it an accomplice to the decline of international legality?
3. Isn't the Commission concerned about the global political and economic repercussions of US hegemonism, including its impact on the EU?

Submitted: 12.1.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(27 February 2026)**

International law and the principles of territorial integrity and state sovereignty enshrined in the UN Charter must be upheld under all circumstances. Members of the UN Security Council have a particular responsibility in this regard.

This message was underscored in the 4 January 2026 statement by the High Representative/Vice-President supported by 26 Member States ⁽¹⁾, as well as by President of the European Council ⁽²⁾ and President of the Commission ⁽³⁾ in their public reactions to the US intervention in Venezuela.

The EU has repeatedly stated that Nicolás Maduro lacks the legitimacy of a democratically elected president ⁽⁴⁾ and continues to advocate for a Venezuelan-led peaceful transition to democracy in Venezuela.

Respecting the will of the Venezuelan people remains the only durable solution for Venezuela. The EU is ready to support and accompany all Venezuelans in this process.

The EU reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, and remains dedicated to promoting a strong, efficient and resilient multilateral system, based on international law with the UN at its core.

The EU remains ready to continue engaging constructively with the US on all issues of common interests. At the same time, the EU will continue to stand up for its interests and will defend itself, its Member States, its citizens and its companies, against any form of coercion.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/venezuela-statement-high-representative-aftermath-us-intervention-venezuela_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://x.com/eucopresident/status/2007423971436732438>.

⁽³⁾ <https://x.com/vonderleyen/status/2007440364135674172>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/01/10/venezuela-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-events-of-10-january-2025/>.

The EU continues to support an inclusive, rules-based multilateral system anchored in the principles of the UN Charter. The EU will continue to uphold the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of borders as fundamental tenets of international law.
