

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000287/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Erik Kálíňák (NI)
(26 January 2026)

Subject: Selective assertiveness in EU foreign policy?

In January 2026, the US undertook a military intervention in Venezuela, resulting in the capture and transfer of Nicolás Maduro to a US prison on charges of narcoterrorism, and declared that a temporary administration would run the country in conjunction with selected individuals from Maduro's entourage. The EEAS, led by the Vice-President/High Representative, responded with a statement that can be summed up in a few lines: 'we call for restraint', 'international law and the UN Charter must be respected', 'we support Venezuela's democratic path', and a repetition of the old mantra that Maduro has no legitimacy. That's all.

No mention of the illegal capture of the head of state, no designation of the intervention as a violation of sovereignty, no sanctions against the US, no diplomatic campaign, no extraordinary statement by the Council. Meanwhile, when Russia invaded Ukraine, the EU immediately launched sanctions packages, massive aid to Kyiv, and a clear classification of the invasion as aggression.

1. Why did the Vice-President/High Representative see no reason to call this operation what it was — a direct interference in the sovereignty of another state — and instead resort to vague diplomatic platitudes?
2. How does she justify the fact that the EU can be uncompromising towards one actor, but suddenly retreats into guarded statements towards another?
3. What specific steps will the Vice-President/High Representative take in the coming months to ensure that the EU is no longer perceived as an actor with different principles depending on who is on the other side?

Submitted: 26.1.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(31 March 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 to uphold these principles. This message was underscored in the 4 January 2026 statement ⁽¹⁾ by the High Representative/Vice-President supported by 26 Member States, as well as by President of the European Council and President of the Commission in their public reactions to the US intervention in Venezuela.

The EU has repeatedly stated ⁽²⁾ that Nicolás Maduro lacks the legitimacy of a democratically elected president and has advocated for a Venezuelan-led peaceful transition to democracy in the country, respectful of its sovereignty.

The right of the Venezuelan people to determine their future must be respected. The Commission is in close contact with the US, as well as regional and international partners to support and facilitate dialogue with all parties involved, leading to a negotiated, democratic, inclusive and peaceful solution to the crisis, led by Venezuelans.

Similarly, the EU remains ready to continue engaging constructively with the US on creating the conditions for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

The EU will continue to uphold the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of borders together with other fundamental tenets of international law.

These principles are essential for Europe and for the international community as a whole and will continue to guide the EU action.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/venezuela/>.