



# EU WORKS FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN VENEZUELA



**The European Union stands with the people of Venezuela** and is at the forefront of the international mobilisation to solve the crisis in the country and support a political, democratic, peaceful and Venezuelan-owned solution.

The multidimensional crisis in Venezuela requires an urgent political solution. This can only be achieved through a peaceful, democratic and Venezuelan-owned process leading to free and fair presidential elections. The Venezuelan citizens deserve full democracy in all its dimensions, from the rule of law to the respect of human rights, from the separation of powers to the respect for the constitutional mandate of the country's institutions, starting from the democratically elected National Assembly.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP

To support this political process, the European Union, together with regional partners, established in January 2019 the International Contact group.

### → ITS PARTICIPANTS:

+ 8 Member States and 5 Countries from Latin America



### → ITS GOALS:



**Political solution** - to create the conditions for and provide support to a political process that can lead to the peaceful restoration of democracy, through credible and transparent presidential elections, in accordance with the Venezuelan Constitution, and within the earliest timeframe possible.



**Humanitarian assistance** - to promote an opening-up of the humanitarian space and ensure the required conditions for access and delivery of emergency relief without constraints and in full compliance with humanitarian principles, with **almost €150 million of assistance since 2018**.

### → ITS WORK:

The ICG is contributing to opening up the political space to start building a peaceful and democratic solution through credible elections. All parties recognise the role of the ICG. The Group operates in close contact with the main regional and international actors and is fully supporting the work of the Norwegian government for a facilitated negotiation process.



## → NEXT STEPS:

- The EU will remain strongly engaged, including through the ICG and the Special Adviser for Venezuela Enrique Iglesias.
- The EU will continue intensifying its outreach to all regional and international relevant actors to increase coordination amongst all international actors in support of a negotiated electoral path as a way out of the Venezuelan crisis.
- The EU will continue working closely with the region in a complementary manner.



High Representative Mogherini has appointed **Enrique Iglesias** as the EU's Special Adviser for Venezuela to support the work of the EU and of the ICG to help promote a peaceful, democratic solution to the crisis in Venezuela, through free and fair elections. **He will provide advice to the High Representative and to the ICG** on steps that could be taken to work towards these goals and will also engage in outreach efforts to relevant stakeholders in Venezuela and to international and regional actors.

## HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE



The EU has been providing assistance since 2016 to address the needs of the population. Since 2018, total EU assistance for the regional crisis amounts to almost **€150 million**. Helping the Venezuelan people in need is a priority for the European Union, both **inside** Venezuela and **outside** the country.

### The EU supports:

- Access to food, medicines and basic services for the most vulnerable
- The socio-economic inclusion of migrants in host communities in neighbouring countries
- Conflict prevention at borders to reduce tensions
- Civil society
- Legal support to Venezuelan migrants

## TARGETED MEASURES

The EU has in place targeted measures and is ready to impose additional restrictions in the absence of concrete results. These measures can be reversed, in case substantial progress is made towards the restoration of democracy, rule of law and human rights in Venezuela.

### The European Union has put in place:



Flexible and targeted restrictive measures against individuals responsible for violations of democracy, rule of law and human rights – without creating any additional hardship on the population



It also applies an embargo on arms and on equipment that could be used for internal repression