



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Communiqué

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela strongly rejects the statement by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini, on behalf of the European Union, issued on April 19th, 2018, which clearly violates the most basic principles of international law and the provisions of respect for sovereignty, self-determination of peoples and non-interference in the internal affairs of the States, established in the Charter of the United Nations.

With this kind of positions, the European Union and its member States demonstrate, once more, their regrettable subordination to the instructions of the government of the United States of America. These actions represent an aggression against the Venezuelan people and the Venezuelan State and its legitimate and sovereign institutions.

It is important to remind to the High Representative that the Venezuelan electoral system is one of the greatest strengths of our democracy, an example of the people progress for consolidating their right to choose in peace and without any interference from a nation or foreign power. The Venezuelan Electoral Authority is a fundamental pillar of the Venezuelan homeland. Its efficiency and transparency has been recognized worldwide and serves as a reference for many democratic nations, including States of the European Union.

As it has been publicly known and published in the media, the Electoral Authority invited international observers, especially from the European Union, without any limitation, for the purpose that they can attest to the transparency of the electoral process that some intend to question before its realization.

Despite the statements of the High Representative, the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela and the electoral authorities reiterate the invitation sent to the High



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Representative for participating as an international observer of the electoral process to be held on next May 20th, as it was directly informed to her during the meeting in her office in Brussels on April 11th with the Minister for Foreign Relations, Jorge Arreaza.

Likewise, the Venezuelan Foreign Minister urged the High Representative to undertake the corresponding and appropriate procedures in order to unblock the funds and transactions of the Venezuelan State by the European financial institutions, as a sign of independence in light of the evident submission to the unilateral and illegal coercive measures issued by the Donald Trump's administration against the economy and people of Venezuela.

Venezuela will always be willing to initiate a constructive dialogue with the European Union and its member States, based on mutual respect and treatment among equals, as the President Nicolas Maduro has shown in recent days by proposing and concretizing the normalization of diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Spain.

Today, April 19th, date in which we celebrate the beginning of the firm determination of the Venezuelan people to be free and independent, we reaffirm the ideas of the Liberator, Simon Bolivar, who in a message addressed to the delegates of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama, urged to resist all intervention in the internal affairs of the Latin American nations. No imperial vestige, nation, group of countries, or organizations of any kind, can intervene or prejudice our independence and our unwavering course of freedom, peace and democratic coexistence.

Caracas, April 19th, 2018