



**Doc. 11737**

02 October 2008

## Elections on 23 November 2008 in Venezuela

### Written declaration No. 416

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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The signatories of the present declaration,

1. Considering the administrative decision of the Comptroller General of Venezuela to ban participation of popular opposition candidates for posts of governor and mayor in the elections to be held on 23 November 2008, in clear breach of the Venezuelan Constitution and international agreements such as the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
2. Considering that this arbitrary decision will prevent voters from electing the candidates of their choice, which constitutes a fresh violation of democracy and pluralism;
3. Considering that the actions of the Venezuelan Government against opposition candidates and human rights protection figures, such as the arbitrary expulsion from Venezuela of the director of Human Rights Watch, José Miguel Vivanco, and his assistant, Daniel Wilkinson, represent a serious violation of freedom;

Believe that urgent steps must be taken to remind the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that it has a duty to respect and ensure respect for the rules of democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of opinion, in keeping with its obligations under the American Convention on Human Rights, of which it is a signatory, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

ISLAMI Kastriot, Albania, SOC  
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD  
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC  
BOSWELL Tim, United Kingdom, EDG  
BRANGER Jean-Guy, France  
CHOPE Christopher, United Kingdom, EDG  
CLIVETI Minodora, Romania  
CUBREACOV Vlad, Republic of Moldova  
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain  
DZEMBRITZKI Detlef, Germany  
GRAF Angelika, Germany, SOC  
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD  
HÖFER Gerd, Germany  
HURSKAINEN Sinikka, Finland, SOC  
KIURU Krista, Finland, SOC  
KUKAN Eduard, Slovak Republic  
MARCENARO Pietro, Italy, SOC  
MOGHERINI REBESANI Federica, Italy, SOC  
PFLUG Johannes, Germany  
STRÄSSER Christoph, Germany, SOC  
WALTER Robert, United Kingdom, EDG  
WILSHIRE David, United Kingdom, EDG

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Total = 22

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1. EDG: European Democrat Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group