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02 October 2008

Elections on 23 November 2008 in Venezuela

Written declaration No. 416

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.

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)



Signed¹:

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

Total = 22

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