

*Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear High Representative Kallas,*

In the early hours of 3 January, local time, the United States conducted military strikes targeting military barracks and nearby civilian buildings in Caracas and other cities in Venezuela. At this stage, the full extent of the damage and the number of potential casualties have not yet been clarified. These developments take place against the backdrop of repeated statements by the Trump Administration regarding its interest in Venezuela's oil resources and its broader approach of establishing exclusive control over the Western hemisphere.

In addition, public statements by representatives of the United States Government publicly celebrated the kidnapping of Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro and his wife.

Taken together, these developments appear a clear violation of the fundamental principles of international law, including Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations.

Actions that risk undermining the UN Charter and core principles such as the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations will have grave repercussions for international security, including for the safety of European citizens.

The European Union has formally highlighted the importance of a rules-based international order and has, in other contexts, condemned violations of international law and adopted restrictive measures. Past precedents, including the response of several Member States to the 2003 invasion of Iraq and EU response to violations of international law by the Russian Federation in Ukraine and beyond, were in line with such a commitment.

In this light, the absence of a clear EU response to the unilateral actions undertaken by the United States in Venezuela would constitute dangerous double standards and will further weaken the EU's credibility in upholding international law and the UN-based international order.

We therefore call upon you to:

1. Condemn the actions undertaken by the United States and their incompatibility with international law;
2. Engage with EU Member States with a view to convening an extraordinary meeting of the United Nations Security Council;
3. Take the initiative in pursuing diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalation and the prevention of further military action.
4. Reconsider EU security and defence cooperation with the United States, particularly in regard to NATO.

Bruxelles, 05/01/2026

Respectfully,
Members of the European Parliament,

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