

ALDE Condemns Electoral Fraud and Human Rights Violations in Venezuela

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party, convening in Estoril, Portugal on October 4-6, 2024:

Acknowledges:

- The Venezuelan people's strong desire for democracy and the right to free and fair elections;
- International reports highlighting widespread electoral malpractice during the presidential election on 28 July 2024;
- Clear evidence from opposition parties and diplomats from democratic states in Venezuela showing Edmundo González as the legitimate winner of the election;
- That Liberal International (of which ALDE is a member organisation) has been unwavering in its support for Maria Corina Machado who originally was nominated as the opposition candidate to Maduro. Her party Vente has for many years been associated to Liberal International. Machado has been awarded PACE's 2024 Vaclav Havel human rights prize on the initiative of Liberal International.

Regrets:

- The Venezuelan National Electoral Council's (CNE) failure to ensure a transparent and credible election, undermining its legitimacy;
- The repression of opposition figures, including arbitrary disqualification of candidates;
- Ongoing human rights violations, such as arbitrary detentions and excessive force against peaceful protesters;
- The lack of international action to hold the Maduro regime accountable and support democracy in Venezuela.

Calls on:

- The EU and Council of Europe member states to demand the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained individuals, including opposition leaders and human rights defenders;
- The international community to increase diplomatic pressure on Venezuela to restore democratic norms and hold free and fair elections;
- The UN Human Rights Council to renew the mandate of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela and closely monitor the situation;
- The EU and Council of Europe member states to support civil society initiatives promoting democracy and human rights;
- Increased monitoring to ensure accountability for human rights violations and electoral fraud;
- Recognition that Edmundo González should be sworn in as President on 10 January 2025.