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EU parliament urges member states to recognize Guaido as Venezuela's interim president

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The European Parliament voted to recognize opposition leader Juan Guaido as the legitimate interim president of Venezuela and urged EU leaders to do the same.

The resolution, [voted](#) on Thursday, [called](#) on the EU leadership to adopt “a strong, unified stance,” and recognize Guaido as the “*only legitimate*” interim president of the South American nation until new elections are held to “*restore democracy*.”

The MEPs also pledged “*full support*” for Venezuela’s opposition-controlled parliament, the National Assembly, urging the EU states to “*accredit*” the envoys appointed by the opposition.

The document was adopted with 439 votes to 104, with 88 MEPs abstaining.

[@EP President](#) The European Parliament recognises [@jguaido](#) as the legitimate interim President of Venezuela. 🇻🇪

Guaido thanked the European Parliament for the vote. “*We made a big step in our fight for democracy*,” he [wrote](#) on Twitter.

European Union Foreign Affairs Chief Federica Mogherini had earlier [promised](#) “full support” for the National Assembly. On Saturday, Germany, France and Spain [threatened](#) to recognize Guaido as the nation’s interim president unless the current head of state, Nicolas Maduro, declared a snap election within eight days.

Maduro firmly rejected the ultimatum, saying that the EU nations have no right to make such demands and the election will take place, as scheduled, in 2025.

[Also on rt.com Maduro says next election will take place in 2025, rejects Europe's 8-day ultimatum...](#)

Parliament speaker Juan Guaido declared himself interim president last week, in opposition to Maduro who ruled Venezuela since 2013. Guaido was instantly endorsed by the US and subsequently recognized as the sole legitimate ruler by Canada and the majority of South American countries, including neighboring Colombia and Brazil.

States such as Russia, China, Iran and Turkey continue to recognize Nicolas Maduro as Venezuela’s democratically-elected president. Moscow stressed that all nations should respect Venezuela’s sovereignty and [vowed](#) to defend its national interests in the country “*with all mechanisms available.*”

Over the years, Venezuela has been plagued by a severe economic crisis that led to numerous protests, some of which descended into violent clashes with police. Maduro accused the US of stoking protests against the government, as well as harboring plots to oust or assassinate him.

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