

European Union opposes Washington's total blockade against Venezuela



Brussels, August 8 (RHC)-- The European Union announced Wednesday that it rejected new moves by the White House to impose a total blockade on Venezuela. Although the EU has also placed sanctions on the elected government of Venezuela, they oppose U.S. attempts to extend the sanctions 'extraterritorially.'

"We oppose the extraterritorial application of unilateral measures," said EU spokesperson Carlos Martin Ruiz de Gordejuela, spokesperson for the EU Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management & International Cooperation and Development. His comments were made in reference to this week's U.S. measures, issued as part of an executive decree, that formally extend sanctions outside Venezuela, to include Venezuela's public assets in the United States.

Gordejuela also said the EU believes that the solution must be found through elections in "the shortest possible term." The EU has also taken a different approach to the U.S. on the issue of the peace talks between the government and opposition that have been sponsored by Norway.

Meanwhile, the U.S. approach is one where Washington seeks to place further sanctions as a means of destabilizing any possible dialogue. The comments represent a small change in rhetoric, which has so far been supportive of the U.S. attempts at regime change in Venezuela. The EU has applied its own sanctions, and its appointed chiefs voiced their support for self-declared "president" Juan Guaido.

The EU's position comes as yet another difference between the EU and the U.S., adding to a number of issues, including the Iran nuclear deal, which the EU helped draft and from which the U.S. has unilaterally withdrawn.

Another area of contention has been the U.S. insistence that European countries abolish their taxes on big tech companies, many of whom are U.S. based corporations. The White House has threatened France with trade tariffs if they failed to do so and told the U.K. that there would be no trade deal if London didn't scrap the tax.

In June, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged Europe to recognize the huge economic cost that U.S. sanctions have had on European countries and their ability to trade internationally, placing the cost to Europe at over \$200 billion since 2014.

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