Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/898 of 29 June 2020 amending Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2020/898

of 29 June 2020

amending Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 29 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

(1) On 13 November 2017, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074[(1)] concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela.

(2) On 11 November 2019, the Council, considering the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and the persistent actions undermining democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, adopted Decision (CFSP) 2019/1893[(2)] which renewed the restrictive measures in place, including all designations.

(3) On 21 December 2019, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (the 'High Representative') issued a declaration on behalf of the Union which mentioned that the decision of the Venezuelan Supreme Court and the non-recognised Constituent Assembly to strip four members of the National Assembly of their constitutionally granted parliamentary immunity was a serious violation of the constitutional provisions, the rule of law and the democratic principle of separation of powers. The declaration made clear that the Union will continue to monitor the situation and indicated the Union's readiness to use its available instruments to promote democracy, the rule of law and human rights, including targeted measures that do not harm the Venezuelan people.

(4) On 9 January 2020, the High Representative issued a declaration on behalf of the Union which stated that recent acts against the only democratically elected body in Venezuela, the National Assembly, and many of its Members, including the President of the National Assembly, have further escalated the Venezuelan crisis and that the attempts to forcibly block a legitimate election process for the Board of Directors of the National Assembly on 5 January 2020 and the use of force against its President and several lawmakers to impede their access to the National Assembly were utterly unacceptable. That declaration also indicated that the voting session that led to the so-called election of Luis Parra was not legitimate as it did not respect the legal procedures, nor the democratic constitutional principles, and that the Members of the National Assembly must be able to exercise their parliamentary mandate as received from the

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/898. (See end of Document for details)*

Venezuelan people free of any intimidation or reprisal. Moreover, in light of these serious acts and decisions undermining democracy, the rule of law and human rights, that declaration underlined the Union's commitment to starting work towards applying targeted measures against individuals involved in the violation of those principles and rights.

(5) On 4 June 2020, the High Representative issued a declaration on behalf of the Union on the latest developments in Venezuela, including the decision of the Venezuelan Supreme Court of 26 May 2020 ratifying Luis Parra as President of the National Assembly. That declaration underlined that the Union considers that the voting session that led to the so-called election of Luis Parra was not legitimate, as it did not respect legal procedure nor democratic constitutional principles. It also stated that the latest developments have further deepened the long-lasting institutional and political crisis in Venezuela and reduced the democratic and constitutional space in the country. That declaration reiterated the position of the Union that a sustainable way out of the Venezuelan crisis can only be achieved through a genuine and inclusive political process, and underlined that the Union rejects all types of violence, including any military or violent incursion in the country. In this context, the Union noted that the recent agreement between national actors on humanitarian assistance is a positive step and stressed the need for all sides to work together and constructively on alleviating the dramatic suffering of the Venezuelan people that is being aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(6) In this context, and in view of the continuing grave situation in Venezuela, eleven persons should be included in the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures as set out in Annex I to Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074.

(7) Annex I to Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Annex I to Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 is amended as set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 29 June 2020.

For the Council

The President

A. METELKO-ZGOMBIĆ

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/898. (See end of Document for details)*

ANNEX

In Annex I to Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074, the following entries are added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies:

	Name	**Identifying information**	**Reasons**	**Date of listing**
‘26.	José Adelino Ornelas Ferreira Alias: Ornella Ferreira/Ornellas Ferreira	Date of birth: 14 December 1964 Place of birth: Caracas, Distrito Capital, Venezuela ID number: V-7087964 Gender: male	Secretary-General of the National Defence Council since 26 July 2019 and former commander of the National Capital Integral Strategic Defence Region (REDI Capital), former Chief of Staff and former Second-in-Command of the Operational and Strategic Command of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces of Venezuela (CEOFANB). In these roles he has supported and facilitated actions and policies of the Government of Venezuela which have undermined democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela. Responsible for serious human rights violations and repression of civil society and democratic opposition in Venezuela, including by obstructing the	29.6.2020

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			provision of humanitarian aid and by the use of excessive force by officials of the Bolivarian Armed Forces (FANB), and by subordinate forces under his command, including the Integral Strategic Defence Region (REDI), the Integral Defence Operations Zone (ZODI) and the Bolivarian National Guard.	
27.	Gladys del Valle Requena	Date of birth: 9 November 1952 Place of birth: Puerto Santo, Sucre, Venezuela ID number: V-4114842 Gender: female	Member and, since 26 October 2018, the Second Vice-President of the non-recognised National Constituent Assembly (ANC). In her leading role in the non-recognised ANC she has undermined democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela including by signing the decree that stripped the president of the National Assembly of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó, of his parliamentary immunity.	29.6.2020
28.	Tania Valentina Diaz González	Date of birth: 18 June 1963	Member and, since 4 January 2018, the First	29.6.2020

		Place of birth: Caracas, Distrito Capital, Venezuela ID number: V-6432672 Gender: female	Vice-President of the non-recognised National Constituent Assembly (ANC). In her leading role in the non-recognised ANC she has undermined democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, including by signing the decree that stripped the president of the National Assembly of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó, of his parliamentary immunity.	
29.	Elvis Eduardo Hidrobo Amoroso	Date of birth: 4 August 1963 Place of birth: Caracas, Distrito Capital, Venezuela ID number: V-7659695 Gender: male	Comptroller General, since 23 October 2018, and former First and Second Vice-President of the non-recognised National Constituent Assembly (ANC). His actions have undermined democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, including by leading the non-recognised ANC, signing the ‘law against hatred’, justifying the removal of a legally-elected opposition	29.6.2020