



***THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
IN VENEZUELA, THE NATION DECIDES AND COMMANDS***

INTRODUCTION

In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the nation who has the nontransferable sovereignty is also the one who decides.

The nation, with its right to vote, chooses to its re-elected or revokes them. In a same manner, the Nation decides, by a Referendum, to reform or to amend the National Constitution, or to approve a new National Constitution proposed by the Constituent National Assembly.

The proposal of the Constitutional Amendment that could only be approved by the Nation in a referendum, will give the possibility to the Venezuelan people to reelect, if it decides therefore, to the President in charge, for the times considered necessary. There will be no limits for the popular Will to choose.

In this sense, the Continuous Re-election can be described in of two ways:

1. As the right that has all the Venezuelans, including the President in charge, to be selected by the Popular Will, through the presentation of its candidacy to the presidential election.
2. As the right that has all the Venezuelans to choose freely, as the President of the Republic or the candidate of its preference, even though this one is the President in charge.

In other words, the Constitutional Amendment will reinforce Participative and Protagonist Democracy when protecting as much the right of being candidate to the Presidency, as the right to choose or to re-elect the President of the Republic.



THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Amendment is a constitutional mechanism that can be invoked to make precise modifications to the National Constitution. The Article 340 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela establishes that “the amendment has the object for an addition or to modify one or several articles of this Constitution, without altering its fundamental structure.”

STEP 1: THE PROPOSAL

The precise modification of an article of the National Constitution requires that a Project of Amendment is presented to the decider: The Nation. This initiative can come from the fifteen percent (15%) of the citizens enrolled in the Electoral Registry, of the thirty percent (30%) of the members of the National Assembly, or the President of the Republic in Cabinet.

If the initiative comes out of the National Assembly, the Project of Amendment will require two discussions and will have to be approved by the majority of the deputies.

STEP 2: THE REFERENDUM

Once approved the Project of Amendment, the same will have to be briefed by the Electoral Power, to be passed by the Popular Will into the thirty days following to its formal reception.

Later, and by the referendum, the participative and protagonist Venezuelan Nation, will approve or not the Project of Amendment. That decision is an exclusive competition of the Nation. Only it has power to impose its will in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.



REFORMATION or AMENDMENT?

The Article 342 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela establishes clearly that the Constitutional Reformation has the object “a partial revision” of the Constitution and the “substitution of one or several of its norms that do not modify the structure and fundamental principles of the Constitutional text.”

In this sense, it is clear that if the interest of the proposer is to make a modification an precise of an Article of the Constitution, and not partial revision of the same nor the substitution of its norms, figure that must be invoked is the Constitutional Amendment.

The National Assembly has taken the initiative to propose to the Nation a modification for the Article 230 of the National Constitution, which says very textually: “The presidential period is six years. The President of the Republic can be reelected, immediately and for a single time more, for a new period.”

The fundamental structure of the mentioned Article consists of two parts: the referred one to the duration of a presidential period, and regarding the possibility that has the President in carrying out to postulate itself as a candidate for a new presidential period.

The National Assembly will propose an Amendment for the Article 230 which will suppress the restriction of the right to be re-elected, giving to the Nation the option to vote for the President in charge, for many times that considered necessary.

The Proposal of Amendment does not alter the fundamental structure of the Article 230, but deepens. Not only maintains its two components (duration of the period and the figure of the re-election), but also amplifies one of them: the one that refers the presidential re-election, giving to the Nation the power to decide the times.



LIES ON THE RE-ELECTION

1. Does the continuous re-election perpetuate the President in the power?

NO. In Venezuela, the presidential elections always will be in a fair and transparent, guaranteed by the impartial refereeing of the Electoral Power. Additionally, the National Constitution counts on the figure of the Referendum which offers to the Nation the possibility of ending the presidential mandate.

2. The National Assembly is imposing the re-election continuous?

NO. Neither the Deputies of the National Assembly, nor the President of the Republic can impose changes in the Constitution. Only the Nation, via referendum, can modify the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

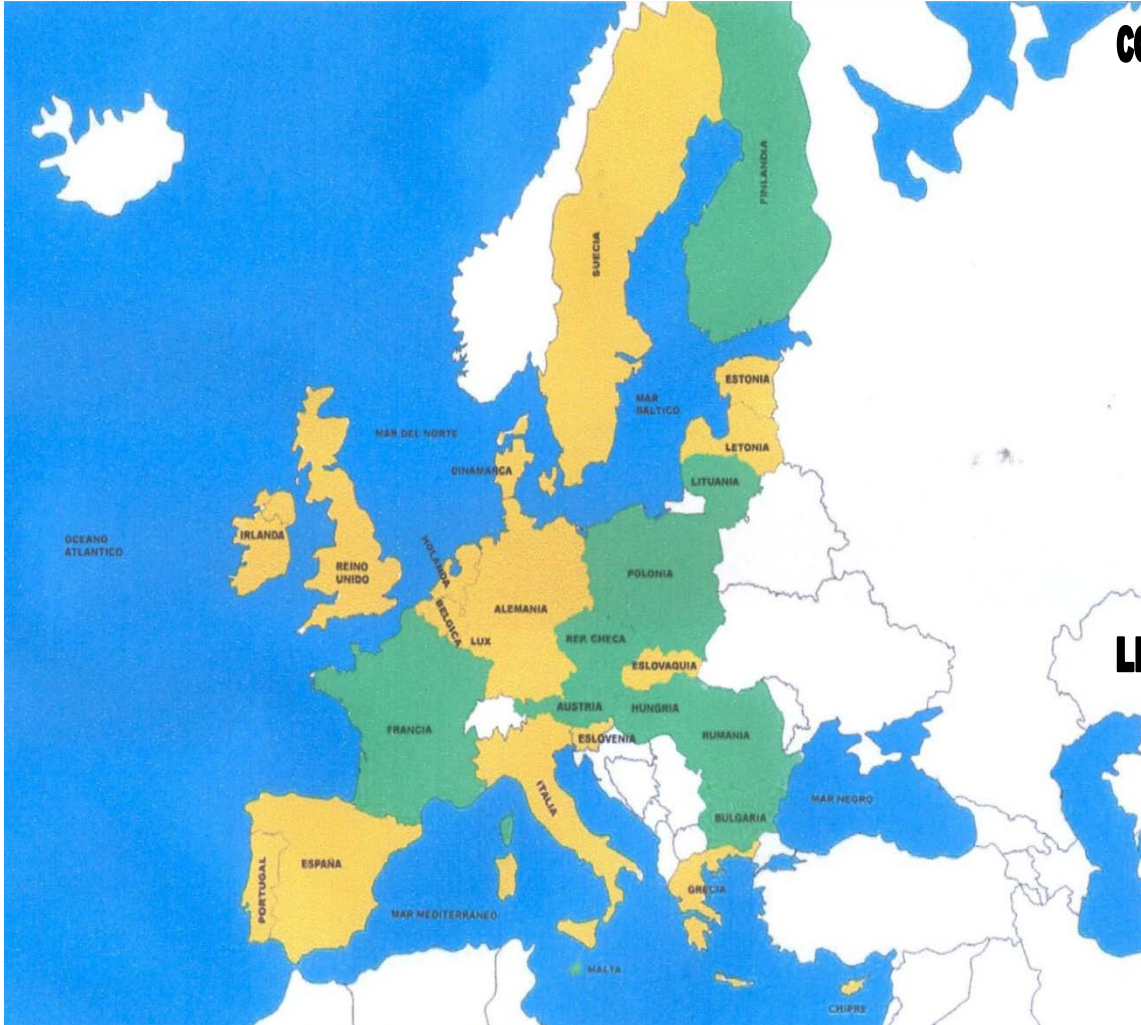
3. The continuous re-election ends the principle of alternating?

NO. The continuous re-election only gives to the President in charge the possibility of postulating itself as a presidential candidate. Deciding corresponds to the Nation, via its vote, if it reelects to the President or elects to another candidate. Consequently, the Nation decides to alternate with its vote.



THE EMBASSY OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO TURKEY

THE RE-ELECTION GOES ON IN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



CONTINUOUS RE-ELECTION

01. GERMANY
02. BELGIUM
03. CYPRUS
04. DENMARK
05. SLOVAKIA
06. SLOVENIA
07. SPAIN
08. ESTONIA
09. GREECE
10. NETHERLANDS
11. ITALY
12. IRELAND
13. LATVIA
14. LUXEMBURG
15. PORTUGAL
16. UNITED KINGDOM
17. SWEDEN

LIMITED RE-ELECTION

01. AUSTRIA
02. BULGARY
03. FINLAND
04. FRANCE
05. HUNGARY
06. LITHUANIA
07. MALTA
08. POLAND
09. CEZCH REPUBLIC
10. ROMANIA