



# AFPC Senior Fellow for Latin American Affairs Christine Balling predicts “business as usual” in Venezuela

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"Christine Balling, of the American Foreign Policy Council, predicted that, despite the rhetoric, it will likely be business as usual.

'In Washington, it's going to be nothing new; it doesn't mean anything. It's basically just a continuation of the state of affairs,' Ms. Balling told *The Washington Times*. 'Unless something drastic happens with Maduro and his cronies, I don't think anything's going to change. And ... I don't think the Trump administration has the appetite right now' for aggressive action against what is still one of the biggest suppliers of crude oil to the U.S. market.

'Frankly, I don't think Maduro would care one way or the other if we withdrew our diplomats,' Ms. Balling said. '[And] obviously ... that would make our intelligence efforts more complicated.'

[Read the full \*Washington Times\* article](#)