spokeswoman for German Chancellor Angela Merkel tweeted that "the people of Venezuela must be able to freely and securely decide about its future".

French President Emmanuel Macron and Spain's Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, made similar announcements.

America's top diplomat, secretary of state Mike Pompeo, said it was time for countries to "pick a side" after Washington recognised Mr Guaido as the South American nation's head of state.

"Now it is time for every other nation to pick a side... Either you stand with the forces of freedom, or you're in league with Maduro and his mayhem," Mr Pompeo told the UN Security Council.