

**Question for written answer E-001285/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: State of relations between the EU and Cuba

The steps taken by the Cuban Government against opposition activists calling for the democratisation of political life in Cuba have led in the past to a significant deterioration in relations between the EU and Cuba.

However, the country's isolation on the international stage and the economic sanctions imposed on it, even though they are fully justified, have not brought the expected results. Those hardest hit by the sanctions have been ordinary Cuban citizens, not the country's authorities.

I therefore welcome news that the EU has been taking steps since 2014 to deepen dialogue between Brussels and Havana and to support the building of a democratic society in Cuba.

Undoubtedly, the EU – as Cuba's second largest trade partner and a key source of imported goods – should consider how it can take advantage of its position to play a greater role in modernising Cuba's political, social and economic systems.

A recent event of historical importance was the decision of the US Government to renew diplomatic relations with Cuba after more than 50 years. This step could lead to the removal of the economic blockade against the island.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Commission: What steps does the Commission plan to take in the area of bilateral relations with Cuba?