

**Question for written answer E-008009/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Ending illegal economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed by the USA on Cuba

Although some results have been achieved in the bilateral relations between the United States and Cuba during the past year, the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba remains in force and the restrictions imposed by this policy continue to be applied.

The inhumane and illegal blockade which has been imposed by the United States on Cuba for over 50 years, and the US policy of hampering the Cuban economy in general, is not only a flagrant violation of the human rights of an entire people and the greatest obstacle to the well-being of the Cuban people, but also a violation of principles contained in the United Nations Charter and international law, mainly through its extraterritorial applications.

Furthermore, as can be seen in the imposition of million-dollar fines on banks and financial institutions for having relations with Cuba in the past year, the blockade seriously harms the economic, commercial and financial relations between the EU and Cuba.

Does the VP/HR plan to take concrete action to put pressure on the US authorities to end the blockade? Does she plan to officially request its end?

Does the VP/HR plan to publicly reject the US blockade against Cuba and publicly support the upcoming UN General Assembly resolution against the blockade?