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*Session document*

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B5-0370/2003

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the oral questions B5-0271/03 and 0272/03

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Pedro Marset Campos

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on EU-Cuba relations

**European Parliament resolution on EU-Cuba relations**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the statements of the EU Presidency of March and June 2003 on the human rights situation in Cuba,
  - having regard to the Council's common position of 2 December 1996 on Cuba, which has since been renewed unchanged several times,
  - having regard to the ACP-EU partnership agreement (the Cotonou Agreement),
  - having regard to its resolutions on the death penalty,
  - having regard to the statements of the Cuban government,
- A. deeply concerned at the sentencing and imprisonment of several dozen human rights activists, political opponents, intellectuals and journalists,
- B. whereas those persons have been accused of subversive activities under a Cuban national defence law, which is being applied in conflictive circumstances in which Cuba's survival and independence are at risk,
- C. whereas those persons have received long prison sentences following a trial which did not comply with all procedural guarantees,
- D. concerned at the activities of the new US representative in Havana, Mr James Cason, who is openly seeking to destabilise Cuba's institutions by advising, training and financing members of the 'opposition',
- E. whereas the activities of the US in Cuba are part of the American strategy for total and undivided world domination, under which the US believes it has the right to impose the regime most suited to its interests on a country by force (as in Iraq),
- F. whereas the EU recently decided to impose sanctions on Cuba,
- G. concerned at the sentencing and imprisonment in the US of five Cuban citizens who did not receive a fair trial,
- H. recalling that Cuba has for more than 40 years been under an economic, trade and financial embargo, imposed by the US in a flagrant breach of international law,
- I. whereas this already harsh blockade has been further tightened by the Toricelli and Helms-Burton acts, whose extraterritorial character is contrary to WTO rules,

- J. whereas this blockade, with its severe consequences for the economy and Cubans' living conditions, has been backed up by threats and aggressions of all kinds (armed invasion, attacks, terrorist acts), generally emanating from the US;
- K. whereas, despite the blockade and the destabilisation campaign, the Cuban government has continued to make great efforts, especially in the areas of health, education and medical research,
- L. whereas all Cubans are entitled to welfare benefits and free medical care, all Cuban children attend school and the country's medical research has obtained worldwide recognition; whereas those circumstances are far from being the case elsewhere in Latin America,
1. Deplores the harshness of the sentences imposed on the prisoners, and opposes capital punishment, however serious the charges;
  2. Calls on Cuba to guarantee full respect for freedom of expression, organisation and information, to guarantee the rights of defendants and to abolish the death penalty;
  3. Condemns the activities of the US representative, who is violating Cuba's sovereignty by openly seeking to destabilise the Cuban institutions, if not preparing a direct intervention against Cuba;
  4. Believes that the 'Varela' project, despite the fine words promising democracy and freedom, is essentially aimed at converting Cuba to private enterprise and a market economy;
  5. Insists that the five Cuban citizens imprisoned in the US following a verdict handed down without proper proofs by a Miami court must be allowed a fair trial and humane conditions of imprisonment;
  6. Reiterates its condemnation of the US embargo on Cuba, and calls for it to be lifted forthwith, as the UN General Assembly has repeatedly demanded;
  7. Deplores the severity of the sanctions decided against Cuba by the Council of the European Union, given that all too often no measures are taken against other third countries which violate human rights;
  8. Calls on the Member State governments and the Council to lift their restrictions on bilateral relations with Cuba, since those relations should be developed on a basis of common interests, non-intervention in internal affairs and respect for democratic rights and fundamental freedoms; calls on the Council to review its common position of 1996 by grounding it in the universal principles of respect for human rights and democratic values, but without making economic, trade and cultural relations with Cuba conditional on 'market opening' or 'economic reform';

9. Regrets the Cuban government's decision not to accept EU development aid, and calls on it to reconsider this decision and to resume the negotiations for Cuba's accession to the Cotonou Agreement;
10. Instructs its Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America to raise all the above points with the members of the Cuban National Assembly;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and the accession countries, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the ACP-EU Joint Assembly and the Government and National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba.