



Plenary sitting

B9-0313/2023

5.7.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission
pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the state of the EU-Cuba PDCA in the light of the recent visit of the High
Representative to the island
(2023/2744(RSP))

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on behalf of the S&D Group

European Parliament resolution on the state of the EU-Cuba PDCA in the light of the recent visit of the High Representative to the island (2023/2744(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Cuba,
 - having regard to the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between the European Union and Cuba, which was signed in December 2016 and has provisionally applied since 1 November 2017¹,
 - having regard to the main outcomes of the EU-Cuba Joint Council, held in Havana on 26 May 2023,
 - having regard to the joint press statements by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and the Cuban Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo after the EU-Cuba Joint Council of 26 May 2023,
 - having regard to the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),
 - having regard to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1984, to which Cuba is a State Party,
 - having regard to the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 26 May 2023, the EU-Cuba Joint Council took place in Havana to discuss and evaluate bilateral relations between the EU and Cuba and how both sides can continue to implement and improve this political dialogue and sectoral cooperation on important issues, such as disarmament and non-proliferation, human rights, sustainable development and the unilateral coercive measures applied by the United States of America and others under which Cuba suffers;
- B. whereas the visit of Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) Josep Borrell represented an opportunity to reopen political dialogue between the EU and Cuba and to put the human rights situation in Cuba at the centre of the discussion;

¹ OJ L I 337, 13.12.2016, p. 3.

- C. whereas the EU offers a socioeconomic and socio-political model based on the pursuit of a democratic society and economic and social sustainability; whereas guided by this model, the EU remains ready to use the framework of the PDCA to support reforms in Cuba, which, in the context of the ongoing economic, social and human rights crises, are more necessary than ever;
- D. whereas the Cuban Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo underlined the constructive dialogue and the shared interest in reaching agreements on the broad bilateral agenda for the EU and Cuba, which would contribute to improving joint working mechanisms and building and consolidating the relationship between the EU and Cuba on issues of disagreement;
- E. whereas on 3 November 2022, 185 countries supported the annual UN General Assembly resolution to demand the end of the US economic blockade against Cuba, for the 30th year in a row; whereas Parliament's longstanding position, which has been adopted on numerous occasions and which is shared by the EU institutions, is to oppose extraterritoriality laws, as they are directly harmful to the Cuban people and affect the activities of European undertakings;
- F. whereas EU Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore plans to visit Cuba at the end of November 2023 to hold a dialogue on human rights; whereas this visit represents another opportunity to strengthen the political dialogue between the EU and Cuba;
- G. whereas on 11 July 2021, the largest protests in Cuba since the 1994 'Maleconazo' took place; whereas numerous protesters have been detained in Cuba since the July 2021 protests, including journalists, numerous opponents of the government, human rights activists, artists and young people;
- H. whereas the human rights situation in Cuba is alarming, particularly for dissidents and vulnerable populations, such as women, Afro-Cubans and the LGBTIQ+ community; whereas there has been an increase in cases of femicide in Cuba;
- I. whereas the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are an integral part of the EU's external policies, including in the PDCA between the EU and Cuba that was signed in December 2016;
1. Welcomes the outcome of the EU-Cuba Joint Council and highlights the objectives of the PDCA, namely to strengthen EU-Cuba relations in the areas of political dialogue, cooperation and trade and to support Cuba's economic and social modernisation process, with the ultimate aim of contributing to improvements to the lives of all Cubans;
 2. Calls on the Cuban authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all those detained for exercising their freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
 3. Calls on the State of Cuba to protect human rights and ensure the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, without discrimination based on political views;

4. Calls on the Cuban authorities to listen to the voices of its citizens and to engage in an inclusive national dialogue to further the country's modernisation and democratisation processes;
5. Calls on the Cuban authorities to grant access to the country to independent human rights organisations and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
6. Calls for the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States; calls furthermore on the US administration to remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism;
7. Supports the constructive engagement of the VP/HR and the European External Action Service, on behalf of the EU as a whole, to keep the channels of dialogue open and to positively engage on the Cuba's challenges; calls for the EU to promote the greater participation of civil society in all avenues for dialogue, in particular in the implementation mechanisms of the PDCA;
8. Highlights the key role played by civil society, human rights defenders, journalists and religious leaders in Cuba and calls on the Commission and the Member States to deliver support to all victims of human rights violations and arbitrary detentions in the country;
9. Highlights the importance of deepening relations between the EU, its Member States and the Republic of Cuba, specifically within the framework of the PDCA, by seeking the development of mutually respectful and beneficial ties between the parties;
10. Calls on the EU delegation in Havana to closely monitor the human rights situation in the country and to enhance all cooperation under the PDCA;
11. Calls on the Cuban authorities to allow the European Parliament to visit the country to strengthen political dialogue;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Government and National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the governments of the members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.