

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2303/09  
by Marco Cappato (ALDE) and Marco Pannella (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: General state of human rights and development cooperation in Cuba

On 28 February 2008 Cuba signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Given that Cuba is a member of the United Nations, it is bound by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Hundreds of people are still being detained in Cuba for crimes of opinion and conscience without having had the benefit of a fully-guaranteed fair trial, as demanded by the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The European Union has resumed development cooperation with Cuba, which makes provision for funding amounting to EUR 30 million for the current year.

1. On the basis of its policy of dialogue, has the Commission considered demanding ratification of the Covenants and respect for human rights in Cuba (and specifically calling for the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience)?
2. Does the Commission take the view that Cuba is complying with the human rights clause (the conditional clause) that is included in all the cooperation agreements?
3. Or are we dealing here with cooperation 'without conditions', as the Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque has said?
4. Can the Commission publish the list of projects already approved in the context of cooperation with Cuba, and can it say whether they meet the Commission's requirements as regards transparency and best practice?