

**Question for written answer E-005697/2015
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: End of the common position on Cuba

The EU, its Member States and Cuba have begun negotiations for the conclusion of a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement. Both sides evaluate positively this step and the negotiating rounds that have taken place. The success of this agreement could put an end to the EU's policy of interference in Cuba's internal affairs. It is hoped that the dialogue will take place on a reciprocal basis of cooperation, with an unconditional and non-discriminatory character, as had been decided in 2008. This should in fact be the stance of the EU and its Member States in all negotiations with other sovereign countries, respecting the self-determination of their peoples, international law and the UN Charter. The EU's 1996 Common Position on Cuba remains an obstacle to the normalisation of relations between the EU and Cuba, which has been hovering over the negotiations. The Common Position violates the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states and is in fact pointless given that Member States have themselves established bilateral relations with Cuba.

Does the Council not consider that adopting a policy based on equality without preconditions and discrimination in a negotiation procedure requires the immediate revocation of the Common Position on Cuba?