Question for written answer E-005425/2020

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy

Rule 138

Dita Charanzová (Renew), Hilde Vautmans (Renew), José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew), Petras
Aušrevičius (Renew)

Subject: Cuban medical brigades and the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation
Agreement (PDCA)

Cuba's Central Medical Cooperation Unit deploys some 30,000 personnel in 59 countries. They
undergo forced labour without rights and, under Article 135 of the Cuban Criminal Code, face three- to
eight-year prison sentences should they abandon their work abroad or fail to return upon completing
their mission. Ministerial Resolution 168 of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment laid
down a series of duties to be performed by medical personnel and disproportionately harsh penalties
for failing to fulfil them. These duties and penalties have been condemned by Human Rights Watch,
Human Rights Foundation, United Nations and Prisoners Defenders.

The EU-Cuba Agreement emphasises respect for the human rights enshrined in the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights.

1. What is the Vice-President/High Representative's position on the use of EU funds by countries
including Luxembourg and Portugal to finance Cuban missions in countries such as Guinea-
Bissau or Cape Verde?

2. Does he intend to call an urgent meeting, as provided for in Article 85(4) of the PDCA?

3. What contact has the EU had with the Cuban Government regarding the Cuban medical brigades?