

**Question for written answer E-005663/2020**

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

Rule 138

**Cindy Franssen (PPE)**

**Subject:** International sanctions imposed on Cuba during the COVID-19 pandemic

Countries throughout the world are being ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Antonio Guterres<sup>1</sup>, the UN Secretary-General, and Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, have accordingly been calling for an easing of international sanctions to ensure that all have access to of essential medicines, medical equipment and food. The EU has already come out in favour of such a move<sup>2</sup>.

UN human rights experts have been warning of the harm inflicted, on Cuba for example, by international sanctions during the pandemic.<sup>3</sup> Over the past three years, the US administration has been ramping up its embargo on that country and it is the Cuban people who are being made to suffer for this, a fact acknowledged by the Commission.<sup>4</sup>

1. What specific additional measures will the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy take to alleviate the existing embargo on Cuba, at least during the current pandemic?
2. What measures will the EU take to assist countries that are beleaguered by international sanctions and hence struggling to combat the pandemic?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1060142>.

<sup>2</sup> Declaration of 3 April 2020 by Josep Borrell, High Representative, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/03/declaration-by-the-high-representative-josep-borrell-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-un-secretary-general-s-appeal-for-an-immediate-global-ceasefire/>.

<sup>3</sup> Appeal of 7 August 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26155&LangID=E>.

<sup>4</sup> Reply by Josep Borrell, High Representative, on behalf of the European Commission, E-003339/2020 (ASW), 14 August 2020, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-003339-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-003339-ASW_EN.html).