

**Question for written answer E-003556/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Opening an urgent humanitarian corridor in Cuba

Cuba is on the brink of a humanitarian disaster, where the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, especially in provinces such as Matanzas, has brought the health system to its knees and the structural lack of food and medicines is putting the physical well-being of thousands of people at risk. In addition, citizens have to contend with repressive measures to control social protests, such as power cuts and road closures and the closure of access routes and cities. For its part, the authorities deny that there is a crisis and publicly oppose international aid. Nevertheless, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU has provided at least EUR 10 million to support the production of protective equipment and fans.

Given the seriousness of the humanitarian situation:

1. Does the Commission, together with international partners and the UN, intend to promote the opening of a humanitarian corridor that guarantees the arrival of urgent aid in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence grounded in the Geneva Conventions?
2. What steps is the Commission taking to obtain the authorities' consent, especially within the framework of Article 18(3) and Article 40 of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Cuba?