

**Question for written answer E-003271/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Jordi Cañas** (Renew)

Subject: Consequences of accepting 'Cuba' as a geographical indication for rum

On 8 April 2021, an application was submitted to register 'Cuba' as a geographical indication for rum in the EU geographical indications register. The application contained the argument that 'the link between the spirit drink and its geographical origin is based both on the reputation of the name, "Cuba", and on certain specific characteristics which are essentially due to the combination of natural and human factors found in the area'<sup>1</sup>.

Accepting 'Cuba' as a geographical indication would mean accepting the Cuban Government's confiscation without compensation of all the country's rum businesses in 1960<sup>2</sup>. This was an attack on the right to property, which is established in Article 17 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union<sup>3</sup>.

Some of the expropriated companies still make reference to their products' Cuban roots and history<sup>4</sup>. Those companies will have to stop doing so if the application is accepted, which would be a boon to the Cuban Government's businesses.

In light of the above:

Can the Commission explain why the geographical indication is being considered for registration even though it would affect companies expropriated by an undemocratic regime that continues to breach basic human and democratic rights?

Submitted: 6.11.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2023:065:FULL&from=EN>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/america-latina/cuba-es/article246314375.html>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.encopadebalon.com/es/rones/648-ron-bacardi-1lt>.