

**Question for written answer P-002637/2019**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 138  
**Leopoldo López Gil (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Cuban civil society and Sakharov Prize

Since you will be taking part in the second EU-Cuba Joint Council on 9 September 2019 in Havana, in the context of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement, and will be meeting your Cuban counterparts:

1. Will there be an opportunity during your trip to meet with Cuban civil society to get a first-hand account of the current situation in the country?
2. The European Parliament has awarded the prestigious Sakharov Prize on three occasions to Cuban activists: In 2002, to Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, leader of the Christian Liberation Movement and creator of the Varela Project; in 2005, to the 'Damas de Blanco' (Ladies in White), family members of prisoners of conscience detained in Cuba during the Black Spring of 2003; and finally, in 2010, to the psychologist and independent journalist Guillermo Fariñas. Do you plan on meeting the Cuban Sakharov Prize laureates or, failing that, their relatives?