

**Priority question for written answer P-002320/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Massimiliano Salini (PPE)

Subject: 'Cuba' geographical indication

Further to the application for recognition of the 'Cuba' geographical indication (GI), submitted on 8 April 2021, the Commission should have identified a number of irregularities and shortcomings in the application. The application contains not only technical shortcomings, such as with regard to method of production, physico-chemical characteristics, ingredients and materials, ageing procedures and climatic conditions, but also political and commercial contradictions.

Politically, recognition of the 'Cuba' GI would be contrary to the fundamental rights recognised by EU law, given that the Cuban regime has expropriated and exiled the first rum-producing firms and families, confiscating their assets, and continues to violate the human and political rights of its citizens. Cuba is, moreover, a staunch ally of the Russian Federation in its aggression against Ukraine. Commercially, recognition of the 'Cuba' GI would bring about unfair competition and would be harmful to all production and trading entities in the European Union that have not set up joint ventures with Cuba's dictatorial regime.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend not to recognise the 'Cuba' GI?
2. Does it intend to protect the GI system as a means of promoting human and political rights and free trade?

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