

**Question for written answer E-000996/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Humanitarian situation in Cuba and implementation of the EU's exclusion regulation

In a recent open letter published in the European press, a Cuban citizen describes severe shortages of essential goods, medicines and electricity, attributing the worsening living conditions to the effects of, among other things, the economic embargo and secondary sanctions affecting international trade and access to humanitarian material¹.

This situation raises questions as to the extent to which European businesses and financial institutions avoid legitimate transactions with Cuba, despite the existence of Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 (the 'blocking Statute'). It also raises questions as to the role of the Union in ensuring the population's unrestricted access to essential goods.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is its assessment of the impact of third-country extraterritorial sanctions on Cuba's access to medicines, medical equipment and energy infrastructure, particularly when European economic operators are involved?
2. What steps has it taken to fully implement the blocking statute to ensure that European businesses can carry out legitimate transactions without the risk of secondary sanctions?
3. Does it intend to take specific humanitarian or financial initiatives to support Cuba's civilian population in areas such as health and energy?

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¹ <https://infolibre.gr/2026/02/18/anoichti-epistoli-pros-ton-kosmo-apo-tin-koyva-mia-gynaika-toy-laoy-kataggellei/>.