

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001475/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(5 August 2024)

Subject: Cuba's inclusion in the list of 'state sponsors of terrorism'

The people of Cuba have endured an unacceptable decades-long US-imposed embargo that has seriously impacted their standard of living and Cuba's economic growth. This criminal economic and trade embargo has remained a constant strategic choice of the US for decades and one that has been perpetuated by successive US governments.

In 2021, the Trump administration added Cuba to the list of 'state sponsors of terrorism' in an unjustified act of provocation. The country remains on this list to this day, exacerbating the embargo and the severe consequences it has for the Cuban people, since any country or private entity wanting to develop trade or other relations with Cuba risks being hit with sanctions by the US Government. It is therefore a coercive economic measure aimed at undermining the achievements of the Cuban people and significantly hindering the supply of raw materials, food, energy, technological and medical equipment, medicines, etc.

Given that the EU maintains economic, political and military ties with the US through NATO, can the High Representative/Vice-President of the EU answer the following:

1. What is his position concerning the call for the immediate removal of Cuba from the US State Department's list of 'state sponsors of terrorism'?
2. What is his position concerning the call for the US's multifaceted criminal embargo and the sanctions against Cuba and its people to be lifted and for all forms of interference in Cuba's internal affairs to cease?

Submitted: 5.8.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission
(20 September 2024)

The EU considers that the United States (US) embargo and connected measures such as the inclusion of Cuba in the US list of countries sponsoring terrorism (SST) have a negative impact on the Cuban population and are an important factor — even if not the only one — in the serious economic crisis the country is undergoing.

The EU and Member States have consistently supported the United Nations (UN) Declaration against the US embargo on Cuba, which is voted yearly (last time in November 2023) ⁽¹⁾.

The US removal of Cuba from its list of countries not fully cooperating on counterterrorism efforts (in May 2024) is a positive step and it is hoped that the US will also be able to complete the process by removing Cuba from the SST list.

On every pertinent occasion, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) and/or his services pass clear messages to its US interlocutors in line with the UN Declaration, reiterating the need to end the embargo and the importance of removing Cuba from the SST list.

The HR/VP and/or his services also take these opportunities to recall that external trade and foreign investment can play a crucial role in setting the island on a path towards modernisation and reform.

⁽¹⁾ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/11/1143112>