

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001637/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe)
(23 April 2025)

Subject: Application of the democratic clause in the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba

The European Union has for years maintained a policy of dialogue and cooperation with the Cuban regime through the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) signed in 2016.

However, this ‘policy’ has done nothing but prop up the Díaz-Canel dictatorship using European taxpayers’ money — money that galvanises and legitimises the regime’s repression of the political opposition, the imprisonment of political prisoners and the incessant curtailment of the Cuban people’s fundamental rights and freedoms.

The EU must therefore activate the democratic clause immediately and begin the procedure to suspend this Agreement and all associated funding, in line with the repeated requests of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾. In view of the above:

1. When will the Commission apply the PDCA’s democratic clause to ensure compliance with Parliament’s mandate?
2. What control and monitoring mechanisms are in place to keep track of the funds the EU sends to the Cuban regime?

Submitted: 23.4.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2025)

1. The EU may decide to call for the application of the democratic clause under Article 85 of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement ⁽¹⁾ when this move will be deemed pertinent. At this stage, as reiterated on many occasions, including in the framework of several debates at the European Parliament, the EU considers that a critical engagement under the Agreement provides higher chances to address divergences with Cuba, as well as to promote EU values, to defend EU interests, and to encourage and accompany the necessary reforms in the island.

2. EU funds are not transmitted to the Cuban authorities. Funds related to EU-funded projects in Cuba are sent to and implemented by United Nations’ agencies, Member States’ agencies and EU non-governmental organisations (implementing partners). As with all EU cooperation projects worldwide, a variety of tools are used to ensure the proper execution of EU-funded projects in Cuba. Each project budget is thoroughly analysed before the signature of the corresponding contract, and regular reports are provided by the implementing partners. Regular meetings, monitoring missions and external evaluations are carried out to verify the progress and achievement of objectives. In addition, a system of controls and audits is in place to ensure that funds are spent in accordance with the activities and conditions set out in the contract. When the Commission becomes aware of any suspected cases of fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the EU budget, it informs the European Anti-Fraud Office.

¹ European Parliament resolution of 28 November 2019 on Cuba, the case of José Daniel Ferrer (2019/2929(RSP)); European Parliament resolution of 10 June 2021 on the human rights and political situation in Cuba (2021/2745(RSP)); European Parliament resolution of 12 July 2023 on the state of the EU-Cuba PDCA in the light of the recent visit of the High Representative to the island (2023/2744(RSP)).

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision 2016/2232, OJ L337 I, 13 December 2016.