

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001764/25
to the Commission**

Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Mimmo Lucano (The Left), Özlem Demirel (The Left), Vladimir Prebilić (Verts/ALE), Rima Hassan (The Left), Fernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Marc Botenga (The Left), Dario Tamburrano (The Left), Leila Chaibi (The Left), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Carolina Morace (The Left), João Oliveira (The Left)
(30 April 2025)

Subject: Health cooperation with Cuba

1. Does the Commission plan to urge the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to review treatments and vaccines developed by the Cuban public health system, such as Heberprot-P or CIMAvax-EGF, using scientific — not political — criteria, with the aim of ensuring access to effective and affordable medicines for the European population?
2. Does the Commission consider that the US economic embargo on Cuba justifies the EU's passivity in health cooperation, even when that blockade goes against the principles of sovereignty, global justice and the right to health that the EU claims to uphold?
3. Is the Commission planning to include a specific line of cooperation in medical biotechnology, health research, knowledge and technology transfer as a coherent way of protecting the right to health and the health autonomy of the Global South?

Submitted: 30.4.2025

Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2025)

The European Medicines Agency is a decentralised agency of the EU, which is responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision and safety monitoring of medicines. Scientific criteria are used to evaluate submitted marketing authorisation applications.

Cooperation on biotechnology is prioritised under both the EU-Cuba Multiannual Indicative Programme ⁽¹⁾ and the EU-Cuba Global Gateway Investment Agenda ⁽²⁾.

Most recent EU-funded initiatives on biotechnology: (i) programme executed by the Pan American Health Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme to support the Cuban regulatory agency for Medicines and BioCubaFarma towards meeting international standards, foster innovation and exchanges with European entities, and increase production capacity (EUR 8.5 million grant); (ii) blending operation (EUR 8 million grant linked to a EUR 25 million loan) implemented by *Agence française de développement* to support the Finlay Institute of Vaccines to increase its production of meningococcal vaccines.

Health is one of the 5 pillars of the Global Gateway, and the Commission is committed to supporting the Global South achieve strategic autonomy with a strong focus on supporting sustainable and resilient health systems.

⁽¹⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/31833263-a4e0-4027-b987-83ac795275d9_en?filename=mip-2021-c2021-9130-cuba-annex_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ Infographic with priorities/ country project examples under the GGIA EU-Cuba: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/8a38960b-b3a8-44db-9013-8030bfe53d56_en?filename=EU-Cuba-partnership_en.pdf.