

EN

E-002282/2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.8.2025)

EU humanitarian action aims at preserving human life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and helping people to maintain dignity in face of natural hazards and human-induced disasters. It abides by the humanitarian principles¹ – humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence – and the international humanitarian law². The provision of aid is based on independently assessed needs and not channelled via governments. Under no circumstances is such assistance intended to support governments' political agendas.

As the Commission noted in its reply to written question E-002542/2024³, the assistance provided to Cuba in 2024 included in-kind assistance and EUR 4.4 million for emergency response, and the long-term support to strengthen development and resilience. Regarding the modalities for administering this aid, the Honourable Member is referred to the 2021 Commission's Communication on the EU's humanitarian action⁴, confirming the humanitarian aid framework within which Member States and institutions have agreed to work.

EU cooperation with Cuba is anchored in the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA)⁵ and aims at improving the living conditions of the Cuban population. EU funding is directly transmitted to the implementing agencies in charge of the various EU projects, be it United Nations agencies, agencies of Member States or European non-governmental organisations.

In the framework of the PDCA, the EU is following the reform processes in Cuba and pushing for advancements through constructive engagement, guided by the EU's founding principles, such as the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which the EU seeks to advance worldwide⁶.

¹ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/who/humanitarian-principles_en.

² https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/international-humanitarian-law_en.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002542-ASW_EN.html.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/hacommunication2021.pdf>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:337I:FULL&from=en>.

⁶ Article 21(1) of the Treaty on EU,
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12016M/TXT&from=EN>.