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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.8.2025)

The EU notes that the longstanding embargo imposed by the United States of America (US) on Cuba, and related measures – notably, among others, the listing of Cuba as a state sponsoring terrorism (SST) and the Helms-Burton Act – are having an adverse effect on Cuba's economy. These measures also impact on EU companies and citizens, due to their extraterritorial character. In response, Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 ('the Blocking Statute')¹ aims at providing legal protection to EU operators facing such third-country measures and at preserving their right to conduct legitimate business freely with Cuba.

External trade and foreign investment with Cuba should play a crucial role in setting Cuba on a path towards necessary reforms and the modernisation of its outdated economic model, thereby helping to alleviate the economic hardship endured by its population.

The EU and its Member States have voted annually unanimously in favour of the United Nations (UN) Resolution² calling for the end of the US embargo against Cuba, and in their latest Explanation of Vote³ (October 2024), the EU and its Member States proposed taking Cuba off the SST list.

The EU will continue to raise its position on the US embargo and SST listing in the UN framework and bilaterally with the US. The EU also recalls the agreement of the US to respect waivers to Titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act⁴, as confirmed with the EU in 1998.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/2271/oj/eng>.

² <https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12650.doc.htm>.

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/eu-explanation-vote-%E2%80%93-un-general-assembly-embargo-imposed-united-states-america-against-cuba_en?s=63.

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/05/02/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-full-activation-of-the-helms-burton-libertad-act-by-the-united-states/>.