

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003809/25
to the Commission
Jorge Martín Frías (PFE)
(1 October 2025)**

Subject: Importation into the European Union (EU) of products made using forced labour in Cuban prisons

A report entitled ‘Cuba’s prison business: 60 000 prisoners are used as slave labour’ reveals that the Cuban regime is exploiting prisoners as slave labour, forcing them to produce marabou charcoal, tobacco and other goods in inhuman conditions. These products are then sold on European markets, chiefly in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece.

This practice, which this report criticises and documents with evidence and testimonies, constitutes modern slavery, expressly prohibited under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the European Convention on Human Rights, the EU Forced Labour Regulation and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs? Has it begun any investigation to verify compliance with European legislation on forced labour and demand that those responsible be held accountable?
2. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that products made using forced labour in Cuban prisons neither enter nor are sold on the internal market?

Submitted: 1.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(14 November 2025)**

The Commission is aware of allegations of forced labour in Cuba.

The EU Forced Labour Regulation ⁽¹⁾ prohibits the placing on the EU market of all products made with forced labour irrespective of their origin.

From its entry into application in December 2027, the Commission and the Member States’ competent authorities will be able to investigate the presence of forced labour in the manufacturing of products sold on the EU market and ban the products concerned when sufficient evidence is found.

Member States’ authorities will enforce the prohibition to ensure that banned products do not enter and are withdrawn from the EU market and disposed of.

The Commission will support the implementation of the regulation through dedicated guidelines for economic operators and competent authorities, and a public database of forced labour risks in specific geographic areas or with respect to specific products.

The Commission also advances the implementation of international standards on forced labour through other measures and policies outlined in the Commission’s Communication on Decent Work Worldwide ⁽²⁾, including through mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence of large companies under the directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 (OJ L, 2024/3015, 12.12.2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3015/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Communication on decent work worldwide for a global just transition and a sustainable recovery, COM(2022) 66 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0066>.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1760 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on corporate sustainability due diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and Regulation (EU) 2023/2859; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1760/oj/eng>.