

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004237/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Marina Mesure (The Left), Anthony Smith (The Left)
(29 October 2025)

Subject: Lifting of US economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba

Since 3 February 1962, the US have been imposing an economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Republic of Cuba. Because of its extraterritorial reach, the embargo has become a tool for exerting pressure at odds with the principles of international law.

The EU's recent call to lift the embargo warns of the island's grave situation as it suffers its worst economic crisis since the fall of the Soviet Bloc thirty years ago. Cuba is now facing serious difficulties in getting its hands on medical supplies, agricultural products and technology, which is directly affecting crucial sectors such as health and food.

On Wednesday 29 October 2025, the UN General Assembly will vote again on the resolution on the 'Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba'. As a reminder, in 2024, the EU and its Member States voted unanimously in favour of this resolution.

1. Now that Cuba is once again in the international spotlight, does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to clearly reaffirm its commitment to lift the embargo suffocating the Cuban people?

2. What action does she intend to take to uphold the principles of international law being violated by the US?

Submitted: 29.10.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(29 January 2026)

As shown by the recent vote of the United Nations (UN) Resolution against the United States (US) embargo ⁽¹⁾ on 29 October 2025, a majority of 19 EU Member States voted in favour of the Resolution. 6 EU Member States decided this time to abstain, 1 voted against and 1 did not vote.

Under the authority of the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP), the EU prepared an Explanation of Vote (EoV) ⁽²⁾ which clearly underlined the need to end the US embargo and connected issues on Cuba, such as the listing of the island as a state supporting terrorism. This EoV was delivered by the Danish Rotating Presidency at the UN on 29 October 2025 on behalf of the 19 supporting EU Member States.

The Commission and the HR/VP will continue to raise the matter of the US measures against Cuba and its extraterritoriality with the US authorities and will continue to implement the blocking statute ⁽³⁾ in order to protect and defend EU interests and free interaction with the island.

⁽¹⁾ <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/80/4>.

⁽²⁾ <https://dkonunsc.dk/statements/29-10-2025-eu-explanation-of-vote-on-the-us-embargo-against-cuba>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2271/96.