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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.5.2026)

EU engagement with Cuba is guided by its values and interests. Since 2017, the EU/Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement¹ (PDCA), agreed by the European Parliament and Member States, has been the basic framework for EU/Cuba relations. The Agreement is not a way to ignore differences, but a way to address them including sensitive topics such as human rights on the island and Cuba's position in relation to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Agreement, through an increased critical but constructive engagement, is expected to deliver further and more concrete results. The best possible option to achieve this goal is to make its implementation and working methods more effective, rather than to abandon it. It is currently analysing ways towards this end, in order that the PDCA can better respond to expectations in promoting reforms, encouraging human rights, and supporting Cuba's economic and social modernisation, while protecting European interests, including EU's security.

In relation to EU cooperation, including humanitarian relief, it aims at enhancing the well-being of Cuban citizens. EU funds are not transmitted to the Cuban authorities. EU-funded projects in Cuba are implemented by United Nations' agencies, Member States' agencies and EU non-governmental organisations. As with all EU cooperation projects worldwide, a variety of tools are used to ensure the proper execution, monitoring and auditing of EU projects in Cuba.

Cuba was not a topic of the January 2026 Foreign Affairs Council.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents/treaties-agreements/agreement/?id=2016056>.