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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.5.2026)

The assessment of third-country extraterritorial sanctions on Cuba should be framed within the EU's commitment to safeguarding legitimate trade and humanitarian access.

The EU rejects the extraterritorial application of unilateral sanctions by third countries, as it considers such measures contrary to international law.

In this context, the EU has established legislative instruments, notably the 'Blocking Statute'¹, which shields European economic operators from the legal effects of third-country sanctions and to ensure the continuity of lawful business activities, including with Cuba. Member States' authorities are responsible for implementing the Blocking Statute, including with respect to penalties for possible breaches.

EU operators whose economic and financial interests are affected by the extra-territorial application of those laws are obligated to inform the Commission.

Since 1994, the Commission has been actively engaged in addressing the most pressing needs of the population in Cuba. In 2024-2025, the Commission released close to EUR 10 million to provide lifesaving health services, as well as emergency relief to hurricane-stricken communities. As an immediate response to the steadfast deterioration of the humanitarian crisis in 2026, the Commission has allocated additional EUR 6 million in humanitarian aid to support the most vulnerable with health and food assistance and potable water. Regarding support in the areas of health and energy, biotechnology and renewable energy are the priority sectors under the EU's Global Gateway Investment Agenda in Cuba².

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/2271/oj/eng>.

² https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/cuba_en.