

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001520/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Anthony Smith (The Left), Emma Fourreau (The Left), Leila Chaibi (The Left)
(15 April 2026)

Subject: Health crisis in Cuba

Since in early 2026, when Donald Trump announced a tightening of the embargo against Cuba, cutting off its supply of fuel, the state of affairs and humanitarian risks in the island have been deteriorating at an alarming rate. Given the continual blackouts and shortage of medicines and other medical supplies, many medical procedures have had to be cancelled and certain courses of medical treatment have had to be abandoned. Cuba's people have thus been deliberately placed in harm's way. The most vulnerable among them, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly or disabled, and patients with chronic illnesses, have been the first to suffer.

The WHO has expressed particular concern at this emergency, stating that: 'Health should be protected at all costs and never be at the mercies of geopolitics, energy blockades and power outages'. The UN, meanwhile has proposed a USD 94.1 million plan to meet the country's urgent needs and keep essential services running, particularly in the health-care sector.

The European Union has yet to react.

Can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy therefore say:

1. Whether the Commission intends to take urgent action to get the USA to lift the embargo on Cuba?
2. Whether it intends to contribute to international solidarity by freeing up and sending stocks of medicines, medical supplies and fuel to Cuba?

Submitted: 15.4.2026

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

The EU is aware of the progressive tightening of the measures being adopted by the United States (US) against the government of Cuba, and on the serious impact of these measures, including the obstacles they create for the Cuban population in obtaining essential medical care.

The EU has regularly expressed the views on the longstanding US embargo and connected measures against Cuba, and it has continued to alert on the adverse impact of such measures both, on the wider Cuban population and on EU interests.

The EU considers that divergences between the US and Cuba should be addressed through diplomacy. Therefore, the EU has actively engaged with the authorities in Havana and Washington to encourage constructive solutions to such divergences.

Preventing social collapse in Cuba remains a clear EU priority. In 2026, the EU has decided to allocate an additional EUR 6 million as humanitarian support to alleviate suffering and save lives.

This figure, together with the EUR 14 million allocated in the period 2023-2025 still under implementation, is expected to contribute to address the most urgent humanitarian needs, including health-related.
