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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.7.2026)

As recalled during the intervention of the High Representative/Vice President at the plenary of the European Parliament on 19 May 2026, Cuba urgently needs to make fundamental political, economic and democratic reforms, respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cuban people and releasing political prisoners and all individuals who have been arbitrarily detained.

The EU, including through its Delegation in Havana and its Special Representative for Human Rights, regularly raises cases of political prisoners with the Cuban authorities.

The Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba¹ establishes a framework for the EU to engage with Cuban authorities, including in areas of divergence such as the detention of political prisoners.

Regarding forced labour, the Commission follows closely information about the presence of forced labour in Cuba, including through reports from international organisations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders and takes the allegations very seriously. From the entry into application of Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 in December 2027², the Commission and competent authorities of Member States will be able to investigate products suspected to be made with forced labour, included on the basis of submissions of information made by stakeholders.

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

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/ban-on-forced-labour-products-on-the-eu-market.html>.