

EN

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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.8.2026)

The Commission is aware of the report by Prisoner Defenders to which reference is made in the question.

As recalled the intervention¹ of High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission 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 individual cases of political prisoners with the Cuban authorities calling for their immediate release. The EU has regularly called the Cuban authorities to ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are treated in full compliance with international human rights standards.

Cuba is not a beneficiary of the EU generalised scheme of preferences nor of any EU preferential trade regime, hence the premise underlying questions 2 and 3 does not apply.

¹

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/vod.html?mode=chapter&vodLanguage=EN&internalEPId=2017076730520&providerMeetingId=20260519-0900-PLENARY#>.