



EU-Cuba relations



Relations between the European Union and Cuba are based on a political dialogue that promotes cooperation, respect for human rights, the modernisation of the Cuban economy, and the development of joint responses to global challenges. Both the EU and Cuba seek to strengthen the United Nations as the core of the multilateral system and to support the strategic partnership between the European Union and Latin American and the Caribbean.

- 1988 | Start of EU-Cuba diplomatic relations
- 1996 | EU adopts "Common Position" on Cuba
- 2003 | EU opens representative office in Havana
- 2008 | EU representative office is upgraded to a fully fledged EU Delegation
- 2016 | EU and Cuba sign the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA)
- 2017 | The PDCA enters into provisional application

Political relations

The EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA)

The PDCA relaunched the EU-Cuba relationship. It is a framework for enhanced political dialogue, improved bilateral cooperation and for developing joint action in multilateral fora. In this framework, the EU and Cuba foster their bilateral relations and work on regional and global matters of mutual concern, such as climate change, sustainable development and migration. The first EU-Cuba ministerial meeting took place in May 2018, and the 2nd ministerial-level EU-Cuba Joint Council under the PDCA will take place and on 9 September 2019 in Havana.

The EU and Cuba regularly meet for 5 structured political dialogues on:

- 1** Human rights
- 2** Non-proliferation of weapons of massdestruction
- 3** Conventional arms control
- 4** Unilateral restrictive measures
- 5** Sustainable development

Human Rights and Civil Society

Mutual respect and dialogue on human rights are at the core of EU-Cuba relations. Our annual human rights dialogue allows both sides to exchange views on basic principles of human rights and address mutual concerns. One of the objectives of the dialogue is to identify areas for cooperation and share best practices. The next formal dialogue on human rights will be held in Brussels on 3 October 2019.

Civil society has a crucial role to play in realising our common objectives under the PDCA. All five political dialogues are preceded by an event with civil society to ensure that exchanges are as inclusive as possible.



Trade and Investments



EU is Cuba's 1st trade partner

for both imports and exports



EU is Cuba's 1st foreign investor

mainly in sectors of tourism, construction, light- and agro-industries



EU tourists make up 1/4 of all tourists

that visited Cuba in the first half of 2019



The aim of the PDCA is to create a more predictable and transparent atmosphere for economic operators and to increase their economic capacity to increase trade and create jobs, but it does not establish a free trade area between the parties.

Development cooperation

The EU is Cuba's 1st development cooperation partner.

Since 2008, the EU has committed over **€200 million** to support the development of the country in three priority sectors.



The EU and Cuba share a political commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and work hand-in-hand on achieving many of them.

Priority sectors, projects for 2019:



Sustainable agriculture and food security

€19.65 million (in 2019)



Environment, renewable energy and climate change

€21 million (in 2019)



Economic and social modernisation

€11.5 million (in 2019)

HUMANITARIAN AID

The EU is committed to help Cubans affected by humanitarian emergencies and supports preparedness in face of disasters. Since 1994, the European Union has funded **humanitarian aid actions amounting to almost €100 million**, out of which more than €8 million were destined for disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and resilience. The EU continues to invest in disaster risk reduction, prevention, and response activities, both in Cuba and at the regional level.



HELMS-BURTON

The US' activation of the **Helms-Burton Act** breaches long-standing EU-US agreements and is contrary to international law. The EU has instruments at its disposal to defend its fully-legitimate interests in Cuba, including the Blocking Statute and its rights under the WTO.