Relations between the European Union/Cuba

1995/2208(COS) - 17/01/1996

Mr NEWENS (PSE, UK) called on Parliament to lend its support to initiatives that were aimed at reviving the dialogue with Cuba and wanted to see the guidelines for such a dialogue laid down in clear terms. He referred in particular to: the growth of democracy and the protection of human rights; respect for basic freedoms; economic reforms and the democratic process in an atmosphere of peace. Commissioner Marin stated that the Commission, along with Parliament, was ready to establish a contractual framework with Cuba. Joint efforts were needed to open-up the economy and establish greater political pluralism. The issue of human rights would play a crucial role in the forthcoming negotiations; the Commission also thought that humanitarian aid and food aid had to be provided as a matter of priority.