Basic information

2016/0298(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Awaiting final decision
EU/Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement **Subject** 6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands **Geographical area** Cuba	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	VALENCIANO Elena (S&D)	01/02/2017
	Shadow rapporteur DE GRANDES PASCUAL Luis (PPE) VISTISEN Anders (ECR) GIMÉNEZ BARBAT María Teresa (ALDE) SAKORAFA Sofia (GUE/NGL) COUSO PERMUY Javier (GUE/NGL) URTASUN Ernest (Verts/ALE) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	ENGEL Frank (PPE)	06/03/2017
INTA International Trade	BÖGE Reimer (PPE)	09/11/2016

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Foreign Affairs	3510	2016-12-12
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	3506	2016-12-06

European Commission	

Commission DG	Commissioner
European External Action Service	MOGHERINI Federica

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
21/09/2016	Preparatory document	JOIN(2016)0043	Summary
25/11/2016	Legislative proposal published	12502/2016	Summary
12/12/2016	Debate in Council		
15/12/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/06/2017	Vote in committee		
22/06/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0232/2017	Summary
04/07/2017	Debate in Parliament		
05/07/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0296/2017	Summary
05/07/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/0298(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on European Union TEU 37 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 209-p1 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p8-a2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	AFET/8/07965

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE599.562	27/03/2017	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE603.099	25/04/2017	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE602.772	30/05/2017	
Committee opinion	INTA	PE604.521	31/05/2017	

Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0232/2017	22/06/2017	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0296/2017	05/07/2017	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	12502/2016	25/11/2016	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	12504/2016	25/11/2016	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
ECHR	Document attached to the procedure	JOIN(2016)0042	21/09/2016	
ECHR	Preparatory document	JOIN(2016)0043	21/09/2016	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

EU/Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement

2016/0298(NLE) - 22/06/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Elena VALENCIANO (S&D, ES) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part.

The committee recommended the European Parliament to **give its consent** to the conclusion of Agreement.

As a reminder, the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement, which the EU signed with Cuba in December 2016, defines general principles and objectives for the relationship between the EU and Cuba. It builds essentially on three main chapters:

- **political dialogue** on issues such as human rights, small arms and disarmament, migration, drugs, fight against terrorism, and sustainable development;
- **cooperation and sector policy dialogue**: human rights, governance, justice, civil society, social and economic development, environment as well as regional cooperation;
- **trade and trade cooperation**: cooperation on customs, trade facilitation, technical norms and standards, sustainable trade and investment.

In the explanatory statement accompanying the report, it is stressed that this Agreement is a necessary and appropriate instrument which will provide a framework for the relations that the EU and Cuba.

As an international legal instrument, it offers a model for a new-generation agreement which sets out very clear political dialogue and human rights commitments.

Through this Agreement, the EU is pledging to accompany Cuba in its evolution while fully respecting its autonomy, sovereignty and independence.

As regards trade and economic relations in general, the Agreement will provide a stronger framework to match the scale that these relations have already reached.

This is the first bilateral political agreement that the EU and Cuba have signed. Parliament’s support should be critical and vigilant, applying the same demands and the same level of respect that is applied to other partners who have pledged to share the EU’s values and aspirations.

EU/Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement

2016/0298(NLE) - 21/09/2016

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other.

PROPOSED ACT: Joint Proposal for a Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: relations between the European Union and Cuba are currently governed by the EU's Common Position 96/697/CFSP of 2 December 1996.

On 10 February 2014, the Council adopted a Decision authorising the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to open negotiations for a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part.

The negotiations began on 29 April 2014 and were concluded after seven rounds in March 2016. The Agreement was initialled on 11 March 2016 in Havana, in the presence of the High Representative and the Commissioner for International Development and Cooperation.

The European Parliament was also kept informed throughout the negotiations.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council approve, on behalf of the Union, the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and it Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part is hereby approved on behalf of the Union. The Agreement should supersede Common Position 96/697/CFSP.

The PDCA is the first bilateral agreement between the EU and Cuba. It aims to consolidate and strengthen links between the parties in the areas of political dialogue, cooperation and trade, on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocity, common interest and respect for their sovereignty.

The relationship will be geared to supporting the modernisation of the Cuban economy and society, cooperating bilaterally and in international fora with a view to strengthening human rights and democracy, countering discrimination and achieving the sustainable development goals.

The Agreement builds essentially on a **three-pillar structure**:

- **political dialogue**: the relevant provisions cover a range of policy areas, including human rights, small arms and light weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, serious crimes of international concern (including the International Criminal Court), unilateral coercive measures (i.e. US embargo), combating the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs, combating racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and sustainable development;
- **cooperation and sector policy dialogue**: these provisions cover a very wide range of areas for future cooperation, including political and legal (governance and human rights, justice, citizen security and migration), social, environmental, economic and developmental issues. Particular attention is also given to regional (Caribbean and Latin American) integration and cooperation;
- **trade and trade cooperation**: this part codifies the conventional (WTO-related) basis for EU-Cuba trade. In addition, it includes provisions on trade facilitation and cooperation in areas such as technical barriers to trade and standards, with a view to improving the prospects for deeper economic relations. It also includes a clause envisaging the future development of a stronger framework for investments.

The Agreement also establishes an **institutional framework** composed of a Joint Council and a Joint Committee and includes a provision on the fulfilment of obligations. The Agreement is concluded for an unlimited period and can be terminated at six months' notice.

EU/Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement

2016/0298(NLE) - 05/07/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 567 votes to 65, with 31 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part.

Following the recommendation by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Parliament approved the conclusion of the agreement.

The agreement is the first bilateral political agreement between the European Union and Cuba. It is based on a three-pillar structure:

- political dialogue covering issues such as human rights;
- cooperation and sector policy dialogue;
- trade and trade cooperation.

It should be noted that, on 5 July 2017, Parliament adopted a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision.

EU/Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement

2016/0298(NLE) - 21/09/2016 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other.

PROPOSED ACT: Joint Proposal for a Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: relations between the European Union and Cuba are currently governed by the EU's Common Position 96/697/CFSP of 2 December 1996.

On 10 February 2014, the Council adopted a Decision authorising the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to open negotiations for a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part.

The negotiations began on 29 April 2014 and were concluded after seven rounds in March 2016. The Agreement was initialled on 11 March 2016 in Havana, in the presence of the High Representative and the Commissioner for International Development and Cooperation.

The European Parliament was also kept informed throughout the negotiations.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council approve, on behalf of the Union, the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and it Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part is hereby approved on behalf of the Union. The Agreement should supersede Common Position 96/697/CFSP.

The PDCA is the first bilateral agreement between the EU and Cuba. It aims to consolidate and strengthen links between the parties in the areas of political dialogue, cooperation and trade, on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocity, common interest and respect for their sovereignty.

The relationship will be geared to supporting the modernisation of the Cuban economy and society, cooperating bilaterally and in international fora with a view to strengthening human rights and democracy, countering discrimination and achieving the sustainable development goals.

The Agreement builds essentially on a **three-pillar structure**:

- **political dialogue**: the relevant provisions cover a range of policy areas, including human rights, small arms and light weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, serious crimes of international concern (including the International Criminal Court), unilateral coercive measures (i.e. US embargo), combating the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs, combating racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and sustainable development;
- **cooperation and sector policy dialogue**: these provisions cover a very wide range of areas for future cooperation, including political and legal (governance and human rights, justice, citizen security and migration), social, environmental, economic and developmental issues. Particular attention is also given to regional (Caribbean and Latin American) integration and cooperation;
- **trade and trade cooperation**: this part codifies the conventional (WTO-related) basis for EU-Cuba trade. In addition, it includes provisions on trade facilitation and cooperation in areas such as technical barriers to trade and standards, with a view to improving the prospects for deeper economic relations. It also includes a clause envisaging the future development of a stronger framework for investments.

The Agreement also establishes an **institutional framework** composed of a Joint Council and a Joint Committee and includes a provision on the fulfilment of obligations. The Agreement is concluded for an unlimited period and can be terminated at six months' notice.

EU/Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement

2016/0298(NLE) - 25/11/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if the European Parliament has approved it.

BACKGROUND: the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part was signed, subject to its conclusion at a later date. The Union and Cuba are committed to consolidating and **strengthening their relations in the areas of political dialogue, cooperation and trade** on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocity, common interest and respect for the sovereignty of the Parties.

The Agreement must now be approved

CONTENT: the draft Council decision is aimed at **approving, on behalf of the Union**, the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part.

For more details on the content of the Agreement, please refer to the summary of the initial joint proposal of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, of 21.09.2016.