Basic information

2017/2036(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European 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 **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)	13/12/2016
	Shadow rapporteur VISTISEN Anders (ECR) GIMÉNEZ BARBAT María Teresa (ALDE) COUSO PERMUY Javier (GUE/NGL) SAKORAFA Sofia (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

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/06/2017	Vote in committee		

26/06/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0233/2017	Summary
04/07/2017	Debate in Parliament		
05/07/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0297/2017	Summary
05/07/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/07/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2036(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 107-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/09416

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE601.171	27/03/2017	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE603.090	12/05/2017	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE602.777	31/05/2017	
Committee opinion	INTA	PE602.956	02/06/2017	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0233/2017	26/06/2017	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0297/2017	05/07/2017	Summary

Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European 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

2017/2036(INI) - 26/06/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Elena VALENCIANO (S&D, ES) containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European 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.

Members welcomed the signing in Brussels, on 12 December 2016, of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between the EU and Cuba. They considered that it constitutes an instrument that will offer a new framework for relations between the **EU and Cuba**.

Human Rights: Members reiterated that the EU's policy towards Cuba include the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and facilitating the economic and social modernisation aimed at improving the living standards of the Cuban population.

The report stressed that the Agreement should contribute to improving the **living conditions and social rights of Cuban citizens**. Consequently, Cuba is urged to:

- **ratify the United Nations' human rights conventions** which are still pending, more specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- **align its human rights policy with the international standards** defined in the charters, declarations and international instruments to which Cuba is a signatory.

Members recalled that the Agreement includes a **provision for the suspension of the agreement** in the event of a violation of the provisions on human rights.

Furthermore, the report stressed the need for **civil society** to be a leading player in all areas of this Agreement and that the government should take further steps to foster uncensored access and improve the digital rights of the population.

Measures having extraterritorial effects: Members called for the lifting of the United States' economic blockade of the island and of the laws and unilateral measures accompanying it, particularly those with extraterritorial effects, since they restrict Cuba's economic activity and continue to have a widespread impact on the Cuban population. They condemned the imposition of extraterritorial sanctions on European undertakings for trading with Cuba.

According to Members, the Agreement can contribute to the **reform, adjustment and modernisation processes** already being proposed in Cuba, in particular with regard to the diversification of Cuba's international partners and the establishment of a general framework of political and economic development. They urged the European institutions and the Member States to assist the economic and political transition in Cuba.

Trade: Members reiterated that the Agreement provides a platform for expanding the **bilateral trade** and investment relationship.

Cuba is invited to ratify and comply with the regulations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Decent Work Agenda, and to proscribe all forms of labour exploitation. In this context, the report noted that all workers need to enjoy a core set of labour rights as well as adequate social protection.

As a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Cuba is called on to ratify the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement that entered into force in February 2017. Moreover, **customs cooperation** is a crucial area that needs to be developed in order to address important challenges such as border security, public health, the protection of geographical indications, the fight against counterfeit goods and the fight against terrorism.

The Commission is invited to create **ad-hoc trade desks** in order to exchange best practices and provide Cuban exporters with the knowledge required to improve the access of goods onto the EU market.

Lastly, Members considered that the country's situation as a developing island state and the economic circumstances it is facing, which are exacerbated by the adverse impact of unilateral coercive measures, justify the adoption of measures that will enable **EU assistance to Cuba to be continued**, under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European 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

2017/2036(INI) - 05/07/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 497 votes to 107, with 79 abstentions, a resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European 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.

Reiterating the high strategic value of the relationship between the EU and Cuba, Parliament **welcomed the signing** in Brussels, on 12 December 2016, of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between the EU and Cuba. It considered that it constitutes an instrument that will offer a **new framework** for relations between the EU and Cuba.

Human Rights: emphasising the importance of the human rights dialogue between the EU and Cuba, Members reiterated that the EU's policy towards Cuba include the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and facilitating the economic and social modernisation aimed at improving the living standards of the Cuban population.

However, Parliament noted that the human rights dialogue has not to date put an end to arbitrary politically motivated detentions in Cuba and that, on the contrary, there have been **more and more crackdowns** in recent years.

The resolution stressed that the Agreement should contribute to improving the living conditions and social rights of Cuban citizens. Consequently, Cuba is urged to:

- **ratify the United Nations' human rights conventions** which are still pending, more specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- **align its human rights policy with the international standards** defined in the charters, declarations and international instruments to which Cuba is a signatory.

Members recalled that the Agreement includes a **provision for the suspension of the agreement** in the event of a violation of the provisions on human rights.

Moreover, welcoming the explicit references to civil society as an actor of cooperation, the resolution encouraged both parties to promote an active role for Cuban civil society during the implementation phase of the agreement.

Measures having extraterritorial effects: Parliament recalled its long-standing position, adopted on numerous occasions and shared by the European institutions, is contrary to extraterritoriality laws, given that they are directly harmful to the Cuban people and affect the activities of European undertakings.

According to Members, the Agreement can **contribute to the reform, adjustment and modernisation processes** already being proposed in Cuba, in particular with regard to the diversification of Cuba's international partners and the establishment of a general framework of political and economic development. They urged the European institutions and the Member States to assist the economic and political transition in Cuba.

Social rights: Parliament called on Cuba to ratify and comply with the regulations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Decent Work Agenda, and to proscribe all forms of labour exploitation. In this context, all workers need to enjoy a core set of labour rights as well as adequate social protection.

Trade: highlighting that the Agreement does not provide any trade preferences for Cuba, Parliament reiterated that the Agreement provides a platform for **expanding the bilateral trade** and investment relationship.

Cuba, as a member of the WTO, needs to respect the basic principles of the WTO, such as trade facilitation, agreements on trade barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and trade defence instruments.

Moreover, **customs cooperation** is a crucial area that needs to be developed in order to address important challenges such as border security, public health, the protection of geographical indications, the fight against counterfeit goods and the fight against terrorism.

The Commission is invited to create **ad-hoc trade desks** in order to exchange best practices and provide Cuban exporters with the knowledge required to improve the access of goods onto the EU market.

Members considered that the country's situation as a developing island state and the economic circumstances it is facing, which are exacerbated by the adverse impact of unilateral coercive measures, justify the adoption of measures that will enable EU assistance to Cuba to be continued, under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

Lastly, Parliament called on the Commission and the EEAS to ensure the establishment of a **regular exchange with Parliament** on the implementation of the Agreement, in particular as regards the realisation of all human, environmental and labour rights provisions.