



# 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**, trade, investment 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 partnership between the EU and Latin America 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 and sustainable development. The first EU-Cuba ministerial meeting, the Joint Council, took place on 15 May 2018 in Brussels. The second Joint Council, under the PDCA, was held on 9 September 2019 in Havana. An informal Joint Council took place on 20 January 2021 via VTC due to Covid-19 pandemic. The third Joint Council will take place on 26 May 2023 in Havana.

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



Human Rights



Non-proliferation  
of weapons of  
mass-destruction



Conventional  
arms  
control



Unilateral  
Coercive  
measures



Sustainable  
development



## EU-CUBA PARTNERSHIP



## TRADE AND INVESTMENT



EU IS CUBA'S:

**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**TRADE PARTNER**

for both imports and exports

**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**FOREIGN INVESTOR**

mainly in sectors of tourism, construction and agro-industries



EU tourists make up 1/4 of all tourists that visited Cuba in 2022

The aim of the PDCA is to create a more predictable, transparent and non discriminatory investment regime for economic operators to increase their economic capacity, create jobs and reinforce cooperation in the area of trade facilitation. However, 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 the areas of **sustainable agriculture** and **food security**, **renewable energy** and **energy efficiency**, **disaster risk reduction** and **adaptation to climate change**, **local development** and **culture**, and **health** and **social protection**.

Priority sectors identified under the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027:

**Ecological transition: Sustainable municipalities**

**€43 million (2021-2024)**

**Modernisation of the economy**

**€43 million (2021-2024)**



The EU and Cuba share a political commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

**Dialogue on human rights is at the core of EU-Cuba relations.** Our regular human rights dialogue allows both sides to exchange views on basic principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and address mutual concerns to identify areas for cooperation and share best practices. The next formal dialogue on human rights will be held in Brussels in 2023.

**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.



## 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 €105 million**, including in response to Covid-19 and the impact of Hurricane Ian. The EU continues to invest in disaster risk reduction, prevention, and response activities, both in Cuba and at the regional level.



## US EMBARGO

All EU Member States have consistently voted in favour of the annual resolution of the UN General Assembly "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". **The EU has instruments at its disposal to defend its legitimate interests in Cuba**, including the Blocking Statute and its rights under the WTO.