



Declaration of the Transatlantic Parliamentary Forum for a Free Cuba
Brussels, November 12, 2024

Lawmakers from Europe, Latin America, and the United States, members of the Transatlantic Parliamentary Forum for a Free Cuba, gather in solidarity with the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights. In light of recent and escalating acts of repression, human rights violations, the Cuban regime's international support for other dictatorships and the invader of Europe, as well as the failed state conditions facing the Cuban people, **we reaffirm our commitment to supporting democratic change on the Island as the only solution to the existing profound crisis.**

Together, we sound the alarm about the worsening human rights situation in Cuba and the destabilizing role of the Havana regime for the West. The Cuban dictatorship is responsible for:

1. Depriving its people of fundamental rights and free, multiparty elections.
2. Holding more than 1,000 political prisoners in inhumane prison conditions, many of them tortured and detained for peacefully exercising their fundamental rights.
3. Provoking and maintaining failed state conditions in Cuba, where most of the population survives with only a few hours of electricity per day, insufficient medicines, and limited food supplies.
4. Depriving citizens of adequate access to essential public services due to its incompetence, cruelty, and the extractive strategies of the military in power.
5. Cooperating with Russia's aggression against Europe. At least 3,000 Cubans are on the frontlines in Ukraine, serving in the Russian army, while the Cuban regime employs its full diplomatic influence and media agencies to support disinformation from the Kremlin.
6. Destabilizing the southern border of the United States. In the last three years, more than 505,300 Cubans have crossed the southern border of the United States. This surge is the result of a coordinated effort between the regimes of Cuba and Nicaragua.
7. Exporting repression and undermining democratic stability across the region, serving as a key ally in coordinating torture and enforcing repression in Venezuela and Nicaragua.

In response to this alarming reality, we call on our democratic nations to act, and, from our parliaments and platforms, we promote initiatives to:

- Halt unilateral concessions to the Cuban regime: Every diplomatic or commercial relationship and any form of engagement with the Cuban regime must be conditioned on measurable steps toward a democratic transition and the recognition of all fundamental human rights. This includes, but is not limited to: the unconditional and definitive end to political imprisonment, cessation of repression,

and compliance with all conditions and guarantees so that the Cuban people can determine, via a binding plebiscite, the transition to a new political system that allows free, fair, and multiparty elections.

- Denounce the Cuban regime's cooperation with actors hostile to international and regional security, such as Russia and Iran, and take action to restrict its destabilizing influence, including maintaining Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.
- Expand economic and diplomatic sanctions against the regime's financial and military networks, including regime leaders, their relatives, and all those involved in serious human rights abuses or corruption, using the Magnitsky Act and other measures such as the EU Global Sanctions Mechanism to limit their repressive and extractive activities.
- Strengthen support for and recognize the Cuban opposition and civil society committed to the Agreement for Democracy as legitimate interlocutors of the Cuban people, and promote their access to international platforms.
- Restrict visa access for Cuban officials involved in human rights violations and repressive actions, preventing their entry into democratic countries.

In particular, European lawmakers will continue working to:

- Activate the essential elements violation protocol of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) and halt European Union funding to Cuban regime entities due to repeated human rights abuses, suspending PDCA implementation until the Cuban state takes the measurable steps mentioned above and the European Union can assess their progress.

Commitment to the Cuban People

We commit to using our legislative and diplomatic platforms to promote these calls to action and to support the Cuban people's right to live in a free, democratic, and human rights-respecting society.