

September 17, 2025

To the attention of Ms. Marianne Van Steen  
Head of Division for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean  
European External Action Service

**Subject: Response to the European External Action Service regarding its communication of July 24, 2025, addressed to Ciudadanía y Libertad.**

Dear Ms. Van Steen,

We thank you for your reply to our letter of May 19, 2025, addressed to the High Representative of the Union, Ms. Kaja Kallas, as well as for the attention the European External Action Service has devoted to our communications. Nevertheless, we view with concern that the requests presented repeatedly and with broad consensus among Cuban organizations, both in Havana and in Brussels, regarding the ineffectiveness of the current framework of EU–Cuba relations governed by the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA), do not appear to have received the substantive consideration they deserve.

Allow us to emphasize that the advances cited in your letter—such as the increase in high-level contacts, the partial and repressed development of the private sector, the limited acceptance of recommendations within the framework of the United Nations, or the isolated and conditional release of political prisoners (described in your communication with the term “detainees,” the same language used by the regime, which we regret to see reproduced in your response, since these are individuals condemned to severe and unjust prison sentences)—do not constitute structural improvements in human rights, democracy, or the rule of law. Rather, they amount to tactical and reversible concessions, tightly controlled by a regime that maintains intact a repressive architecture incompatible with the essential principles enshrined in Articles 1.5 and 2 of the PDCA itself. Meanwhile, independent civil society continues to be excluded from any official framework of dialogue, the number of political prisoners increases, and fundamental freedoms remain criminalized.

For this reason, we stress that a foreign policy limited to preserving a diplomatic framework without demanding substantive reforms disconnects the European Union from the Cuban people and contributes to perpetuating the impunity of the perpetrators. Such impunity must be addressed through concrete measures of international accountability, including the application of individual sanctions under the European Magnitsky Act against direct and well-documented perpetrators of human rights violations, as well as against the military–business conglomerates that sustain them.

These structures not only uphold internal repression, but have also been used to assist the Russian Federation in evading European sanctions in the context of its invasion of Ukraine, through deliberate efforts by the Havana regime in diplomacy and international propaganda, exploiting the diplomatic legitimacy derived from its relationship with the European Union. Moreover, as has been extensively documented, the Cuban State has directly supported Russia’s war machinery by facilitating the deployment of at least 7,000 Cuban mercenaries as part of its war operations—further underscoring the urgency of a proportional and coherent European response.

In this context, we consider it indispensable to move toward a renewed foreign policy to replace the current PDCA, one that:

1. Establishes clear, verifiable, and binding parameters of democratic conditionality in EU–Cuba relations, beginning with the unconditional release of all political prisoners. We respectfully, yet firmly, request that they be officially recognized and designated as such in

all communications of the European Union. The use of ambiguous expressions such as “detainees” obscures the political nature of their imprisonment and risks legitimizing the regime’s official discourse.

2. Places victims at the center, not the perpetrators, ensuring effective accountability mechanisms that include individual sanctions under the European Magnitsky Act against direct perpetrators of human rights violations as well as against their business and military conglomerates. We possess and are ready to provide comprehensive files on these repressors for this purpose.
3. Institutionalizes the recognition and the official, substantive participation of independent Cuban civil society in the EU Human Rights Dialogue and in cooperation programs, acknowledging it as a legitimate and indispensable actor for the credibility of the process.
4. Strengthens transparency, traceability, and oversight in the use of European funds allocated to Cuba, ensuring that they effectively support human rights defenders, independent media, and civil society organizations, and that they are not captured by regulatory frameworks imposed by the regime nor diverted to reinforce repressive structures or regime-affiliated entities.

Accordingly, we reiterate that the PDCA must be reviewed in a substantive manner and replaced by a foreign policy toward Cuba fully aligned with the democratic and human rights principles that form the foundation of the European project. A policy that ensures accountability for those responsible for systematic violations through appropriate mechanisms, while providing firm and coherent support to Cuban citizens in their legitimate aspiration for freedom and democracy.

To demonstrate the good faith and determined will underpinning this broad consensus, and to move these demands beyond words, we respectfully request the holding of an in-person meeting in Brussels with representatives of the signatory organizations, prior to the next EU–Cuba Joint Council.

This letter has been endorsed by a broad coalition of Cuban organizations, reflecting a wide and sustained consensus. We trust that the European Union, under the leadership of its institutions and Member States, will listen to this plural and representative voice and will not prolong for further years the omission of a demand that directly appeals to its foundational values and commitments.

We reiterate our willingness to collaborate with the EEAS and with Member States in the construction of this renewed framework.

With the highest consideration and respect, we look forward to seeing the European Union, under the leadership of its institutions and Member States, stand unequivocally alongside the Cuban citizenry who risk their lives in defense of freedom, democracy, and justice.

Organizations Endorsing and Authorized Representatives:

Damas de Blanco, Berta Soler  
Damas de Blanco, Aymara Nieto  
Partido Pedro Luis Boitel, Sonia Álvarez Campito  
Asociación Sindical Independiente de Cuba (ASIC), Iván Hernández Carrillo  
Cuba X Cuba, Alina Bárbara López Hernández  
Comisión Cubana de Defensa Electoral (COCUDE), Zelandia de la Caridad Pérez Abreu  
Alianza Cubana por la Inclusión (ACI), Zelandia de la Caridad Pérez Abreu  
Candidatos por el Cambio (CXC), Zelandia de la Caridad Pérez Abreu  
Coordinadora Nacional de Ciudadanos observadores de procesos electorales (COPE), María Mercedes

Benítez Rodríguez  
Movimiento Cubano de Reflexión (MCR), Librado Linares  
Comité pro Amnistía para la liberación de los presos políticos cubanos, Jenny Pantoja  
Fundación para los Derechos Humanos en Cuba, Tony Costa  
Archivo Cuba, María Werlau  
Center for a Free Cuba, John Suarez  
Asamblea de la Resistencia Cubana, Orlando Gutiérrez-Boronat  
Cuba Siglo 21, Juan Antonio Blanco Gil  
Gobierno y Análisis Político AC (GAPAC), Liliana Obregon  
Federación Latinoamericana de mujeres rurales, Magdelivia Hidalgo  
Observatorio de Alas Tensas (OGAT), Ileana Álvarez González  
Red Femenina de Cuba, Elena Larrinaga de Luis  
Instituto Patmos, Yoaxis Marcheco Suárez  
ODV Democrazia e Libertà , Sadiel Gonzalez  
Cubanos por el progreso y la integración en Valencia. Oraisá Estrada  
Asociación de Ciudadanos Cubanos en Alemania por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos -  
MenschenDeCuba e.V., Legren Vélez  
Asociación Cubano Vasca Demokrazia Kubarentzat, Frank Hidalgo  
Federación Hispano Cubana de Exiliados por la Libertad FEXCU, Agustín Pi Martínez  
Coalición Cubano-Canadienses, Raimet Martínez Avila  
Colectivo Creativo Forma Foco, Aminta D'Cárdenas  
Fundación 4Métrica, Sergio Ángel Baquero  
Partido Libertario para la Nueva República, Carlos Miguel Mateos Rosaenz  
PatriaYVida e.V, Diosdado Jiménez Martínez  
Ciudadanía y Libertad, Carolina Barrero