



Plenary sitting

B9-0590/2021

14.12.2021

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Cuba, namely the cases of José Daniel Ferrer, Lady in White Aymara Nieto, Maykel Castillo, Luis Robles, Félix Navarro, Luis Manuel Otero, Reverend Lorenzo Fajardo, Andy Dunier García and Yunion García Aguilera
(2021/3019(RSP))

**Manu Pineda, Sandra Pereira, Giorgos Georgiou, Chris MacManus,
Pernando Barrena Arza**
on behalf of The Left Group

B9-0590/2021

European Parliament resolution on the situation in Cuba, namely the cases of José Daniel Ferrer, Lady in White Aymara Nieto, Maykel Castillo, Luis Robles, Félix Navarro, Luis Manuel Otero, Reverend Lorenzo Fajardo, Andy Dunier García and Yunior García Aguilera (2021/3019(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948;
- having regards to the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966 particularly its article 1: “All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 16 December 1966;
- having regard to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of 2011;
- having regard to the principles laid down in the UN Charter,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties and instruments,
- having regard to UN General Assembly resolution of 23 June 2021 on the “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” (75/289), voted by a recorded vote of 184 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States), with 3 abstentions (Brazil, Colombia, Ukraine); having regard on the fact that such resolution has been voted for the 29th consecutive time this year (every year since 1992 with the exception of 2020 due to the pandemic)
- having regard to the so called “Monroe Doctrine” which remains the heart of American diplomacy on the American continent and justifies its expansionism and interference;
- having regard to 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 EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement),
- having regard to the international campaign to award Cuba’s Henry Reeve International medical brigade a Nobel peace prize;
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Cuba, notably those of 15 November 2018, of 3 December 2019, of the 5 July 2017, of the 10 of June 2021, of 15 of September 2021;
- having regard to Rule 132(2) and (4) of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. whereas the US economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba constitutes a violation of the human rights of the Cuban people that qualifies as an act of economic warfare hindering the development of the Cuban people and the full achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals; whereas the US-imposed Helms-Burton Act violates several principles of international law and the rules of the multilateral trade and commerce system; whereas the extraterritorial application of the US blockade goes against the sovereignty of other countries, including Member States;
- B. whereas the US blockade against Cuba has lasted since February 1962; whereas this blockade is justified by the US administration as “The only foreseeable way to reduce domestic support was through disenchantment and discouragement based on dissatisfaction and economic difficulties (...) Any means to weaken the economic life of Cuba must be used quickly (...): refuse to give credit and to supply Cuba to lower real and monetary wages with the aim of causing hunger, despair and the overthrow of the government. ”; whereas as such it can be seen as a crime against humanity;
- C. whereas the consequences of the US economic, commercial and financial blockade have been severely increased including during the fight of Cuba against the Covid 19 pandemic; whereas it has been reinforced notably since the beginning of the pandemic by the former US President Donald Trump who added 243 more sanctions against Cuba, notably the closing of the society Western Union, making almost impossible to send foreign currency by relatives abroad and hindering the country’s access to vital medicines and medical material; whereas these measures were maintained by Biden’s administration;
- D. whereas important tourism sector collapsed due to Covid-19 pandemic; whereas the Cuban people have recently faced serious economic and social difficulties in their daily life; whereas there is a great shortage of fuel, which is also causing serious delays in the distribution of food; whereas the energy crisis leads to daily periods of mandatory power cuts; whereas in this context of penury several demonstrations broke out in several cities of the country;
- E. Whereas in these circumstances US and its allies from the extreme right in Europe are trying to instrumentalize the situation by supporting and financing new actions of destabilization in Cuba; whereas the extreme right in Europe is trying to take pretext of the current Cuban situation to organize further destabilization in the country and re-establish the so called “common position” which was a regime of sanctions unique in the world;
- F. whereas in September 2021, the Biden administration gave almost 7 million dollars to 12 organizations that almost daily publicize the “civic march for change” in Cuba; whereas in addition to “moral,” political and financial support, the US diplomats offer support in many ways to the anti-government movement in Cuba and occasionally serve as chauffeurs to the opposition;
- G. whereas the aim of these actions were to organize demonstrations both in Florida and in Cuba for the 15th of November date of the reopening of schools, tourism and economy after the vaccination of the population (more than 95.2% of the population is vaccinated on the 10 of December 2021) and months of restrictions due to the pandemic;

- H. whereas these actions appears in a context of attacks against Cuban representatives such as an individual opened fire at the Cuban Embassy in Washington with an assault weapon, which led to the recalling of the foreign minister on April 2020 and Molotov cocktail attack at the Cuban Embassy in Paris the 27 of July 2021; whereas in this context and despite the demands and threats to the island's authorities from the US authorities, the Cuban authorities decided not to authorize the march; whereas the tentative of destabilizations for the 15 of November failed;
1. Expresses full solidarity with the people of Cuba regarding the ongoing challenges they face in their economic and social development due to impositions by foreign powers;
 2. Highlights that according to the article 1 of the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966: "All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." without foreign interference; Urges therefore the EU and its members states to respect the international law;
 3. Recognize that the economic and social situation in Cuba is becoming critical due to the consequences of the pandemic and the reinforcement of the regime sanction by the USA; urges therefore for the immediate lifting of the US imposed economic, commercial and financial blockade and all other unilateral coercive measures and the removal of Cuba from the list of States Sponsors of Terrorism;
 4. Denounces the consequences for EU citizens of the extraterritorial application of the US economic, commercial and financial blockade and of the titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act and calls on the US authorities to immediately end this practice; calls on the Commission to develop measures to counter the effects of this policy in collaboration with other third countries;
 5. Calls for an immediate dismantlement of the naval base and military prison in Guantánamo Bay and the withdrawal of all US forces from Cuban territory and the restitution to Cuba of the integrality of its territory; calls on the US authorities to guarantee the respect to the human rights of prisoners remaining in Guantánamo, including their right to a fair trial;
 6. Calls for EU-Cuba relations to be strengthened on the basis of dialogue and cooperation on common challenges such as climate change or the full achievement of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 7. Stresses the importance of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement as a key tool to promote understanding and mutually beneficial relations between the European Union and Cuba; calls on the Lithuanian authorities to ratify the Agreement without delay;
 8. Stresses Cuba's role in the promotion of human rights on a regional and international level; Highlights the efforts made by the Cuban Government and the Cuban people in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the country's important role promoting them;

9. Commends the important role played by Cuba in the global fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular the role played by the Henry Reeve Medical Brigade which is an example of solidarity and has contributed with its doctors and nurses to save lives around the world, including in the European Union;
10. Condemns the instrumentalisation of human rights for political purposes with the goal of interfering in the internal affairs of the Republic of Cuba by several political forces in the EU and within the European Parliament; calls on the Vice President/High Representative to continue to pursue an independent policy based on dialogue and cooperation and not to follow the confrontational approach of the US;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Government and the National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, and the Latin American sub regional entities, including ALBA and CELAC.