

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

9 April 2003

B5-0209/2003 }  
B5-0211/2003 }  
B5-0213/2003 }  
B5-0218/2003 }  
B5-0221/2003 }  
B5-0222/2003 }

RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Gerardo Galeote Quecedo, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Concepció Ferrer, Hanja Maij-Weggen and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Raimon Obiols i Germà and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Carles-Alfred Gasòliba i Böhm, Bob van den Bos, Frédérique Ries and Cecilia Malmström on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Miquel Mayol i Raynal, Alain Lipietz, Josu Ortuondo Larrea, Camilo Nogueira Román and Monica Frassoni on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luís Queiró, Cristiana Muscardini and José Ribeiro e Castro on behalf of the UEN Group
- Bastiaan Belder and Rijk van Dam on behalf of the EDD Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0209/2003),
- ELDR (B5-0211/2003),
- PSE (B5-0213/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0218/2003),
- UEN (B5-0221/2003),

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PE 330.847}  
PE 330.849}  
PE 330.852}  
PE 330.857}  
PE 330.860}  
PE 330.861} RC1

– EDD (B5-0222/2003),  
on human rights in Cuba

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PE 330.847}  
PE 330.849}  
PE 330.852}  
PE 330.857}  
PE 330.860}  
PE 330.861} RC1

**EN**

## European Parliament resolution on human rights in Cuba

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Cuba,
  - having regard to the declaration of 26 March 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the arrest of opposition members in Cuba,
  - having regard to the common position of the EU adopted in 1996 and periodically renewed,
  - having regard to the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement,
- A. extremely concerned by the numerous arrests in Cuba, where over 70 human rights activists, members of the political opposition, intellectuals, independent journalists, Varela Project promoters and members of other groups supporting democracy in Cuba, and trade unionists have been imprisoned since 18 March 2003,
- B. whereas these arrests are essentially based on offences such as dissenting from official Cuban policies and exercising the right of freedom of expression, and, for that reason, the individuals in question are accused of subversive activity under Law 88 on Defending National Independence,
- C. whereas the exercise of the freedom of expression is a fundamental human right,
- D. whereas the trials of these citizens were summary in the extreme, and whereas the trials are being held without even the minimum requirements of due process, in the total absence of international observers and members of the diplomatic corps; whereas the sentences requested are extremely severe, ranging from 20 years to life and even the death penalty,
- E. whereas various sentences have already been pronounced, including 27 years imprisonment in some cases,
- F. whereas the Commission, in accordance with normal procedure in such matters, is drawing up an evaluation report to be forwarded to the Member States with a view to taking a decision on whether to accept the Cuban Government's request to join the list of ACP countries,
- G. whereas the Commission has recently opened an office in Havana,
- H. whereas in December 2002, the EP awarded the Sakharov Prize for freedom of expression to the Cuban dissident and opposition member Oswaldo Payá,

1. Strongly condemns the wave of arrests and sentences involving the Cuban opposition and independent press, since such repressive behaviour does not encourage a climate for peaceful change in the country;
2. Calls on the Cuban authorities to release those arrested immediately;
3. Believes that no law may restrict the right of freedom of expression and under no circumstances sentence individuals exercising that freedom to imprisonment; stresses that freedom of expression, organisation and information is one of the cornerstones of all democratic systems;
4. Believes that the immediate release of all those arrested and the cessation of these arbitrary arrests would constitute a very clear and positive signal with regard to the Cuban Government's wish to engage in political dialogue with the EU, and to bring about Cuba's accession to the Cotonou Agreement;
5. Calls on the Cuban authorities to stop hampering human rights and to remove all barriers to freedom of movement, expression, information and association and to party political involvement;
6. Instructs its Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy and its Delegation for Relations with the Countries of Central America to display firm resolve in tackling the issue of human rights in Cuba, and monitor the situation very carefully;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the ACP Council of Ministers, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Government and National People's Assembly of the Republic of Cuba, and to Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, winner of the European Parliament's 2002 Sakharov Prize.