

## **CUBAN OPPOSITION GROUPS REQUEST CONDITIONALITY IN EU-CUBA COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

*December 12, 2016. Miami, Florida.* Over thirty groups of Cuba's peaceful opposition movement have sent a letter to the European Union on the occasion of the signing today of the EU-Cuba Cooperation Agreement by the EU's Foreign Affairs Council. The missive is addressed to Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Commission, and requests for ratification of the Agreement to be subject to six concrete conditions conducive to a real transition to democracy in Cuba.

Signatories total more than thirty opposition groups working inside and outside Cuba and signatures will continue to be gathered and delivered to the European Union. The letter states that the EU-Cuba Cooperation Agreement ignores the values on which the European Union is founded by lacking conditions that guarantee the Cuban people's rights to exercise individual and collective freedoms. Citing intensifying violent repression, they denounce the Cuban government's responsibility in "the imprisonment of tens of thousands of dissenters, of thousands of extrajudicial killings and executions, and of the exile of millions of Cubans." Evoking the crimes of communism suffered by many EU member states, it declares: "For Europe to ignore the plight of the Cuban people is to turn its back on its own history."

The six requested conditions are the attainment by Cuban citizens of the right to self-determination and free elections, to free and full access to information, including the internet, and to free entry into joint investment ventures with EU entities, including the right to import and export directly. They also call for EU companies and individuals to adhere to principles barring discriminatory, exploitative, and repressive practices as well as to the end of political repression and to the ratification by Cuba of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Signatories also express concern over the Cuban government's confiscations of EU investments in manipulated legal processes and the denial of entry into Cuba, for political reasons, to members of Parliament and political representatives from EU member states.

This concerted effort resulted from a 2-day visit to Miami of the Member of the European Parliament, the Czech Pavel Telicka, who is Second Vice President of the ALDE Group (Alliance for Liberals and Democrats for Europe). Mr. Telicka also issued a statement today calling for respect for human rights and individual freedoms to be at the core of EU cooperation with Cuba. See: <http://www.telicka.eu/novinka/en/1156/eu-cuba-agreement-respect-for-human-rights-and-individual-freedoms-must-be-at-its-core/#novinky>

See the letter by Cuban opposition groups at:  
[http://www.cubaarchive.org/files/Carta\\_de\\_opositores\\_cubanos\\_a\\_la\\_UE\\_\(ENG-3\).pdf](http://www.cubaarchive.org/files/Carta_de_opositores_cubanos_a_la_UE_(ENG-3).pdf).

Contact:  
info@CubaArchive.org  
(973)701-0520