

Question for written answer E-015348/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miroslav Poche (S&D)

Subject: EU-Cuba cooperation and the resultant financial assistance

In 2008 the European Union resumed its bilateral relations with Cuba. Since then it has released EUR 140 million for mutual cooperation. On 12 August 2014 the new National Indicative Programme was adopted, under which EUR 50 million is to be invested in the 2014-2020 period in areas such as environmental and climate protection, food security and sustainable agriculture. Since 2014 talks have also been taking place on a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Cuba. This is to include dialogue on human rights and the protection thereof. A significant role in this process must also be played by Cuban civil society, which should likewise have access to EU financial assistance and should be informed as to how this assistance is to be used. The EU must clearly endeavour to ensure that cost-efficient and properly monitored use is made of the money provided.

How does the Commission scrutinise the use made of funds released for cooperation with Cuba and how are representatives of Cuban civil society and non-profit organisations involved in this process?

How does the EU support Cuban non-governmental organisations? What form does this support take and on what criteria is it based?

Does the Commission propose to involve civil society representatives in the talks on the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement, and how has it informed these representatives of the progress of the talks so far?