

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Deputy Secretary General
Economic and Global Issues

Brussels, 25 JAN. 2016

Dear Mr Grünberg,

Thank you very much for your letter of 12 December 2015 on EU-Cuba relations to EU Council President Tusk and the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice President Mogherini.

In February 2014, the EU decided to open negotiations with Cuba towards a bilateral Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA). This agreement will create a framework enabling the EU and Cuba to enhance their dialogue and improve their cooperation. It will be an instrument through which the EU expects to be in a better position to accompany the reform processes underway in Cuba and to promote EU values and interests. The negotiations with Cuba were launched in April 2014. By now, six negotiation rounds were held, and very good progress could be made in all main areas of the agreement, political dialogue, cooperation and policy dialogue as well as trade relations.

Under the agreement, it will be possible to step up further our bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation and policy coordination in multilateral organizations with Cuba, in the areas that you mention like climate change, desertification, biodiversity, fair trade, SDGs, technology transfer and beyond, e.g. on human rights, arms control or migration.

The 1996 Common Position was adopted by EU Member States unanimously. It can only be terminated by Member States' unanimous decision. While the negotiations of the agreement and the existence of the Common Position (CP) are not formally linked, the CP mentions the establishment of an agreement as one possible outcome. At the end of negotiations and during the process prior to signature of the PDCA, the Commission and Member States will have an opportunity to consider the future of the CP.

Best regards,

Christian LEFFLER

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