



Doc. 15813
23 June 2023

The need for a stronger Parliamentary Assembly stance against human rights violations by the Cuban regime

Written declaration No. 782

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

We welcome the Council of Europe's renewed and further strengthened commitment to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as manifested at its 4th Summit held in Reykjavik, Iceland, in May 2023, especially in the light of Ukraine's desperate fight for its freedom against the invading Russian army.

We understand the Reykjavik commitment to have worldwide implications – and to also include seemingly “forgotten”, total dictatorships of long standing such as Cuba, where time appears to be at a standstill in the complete oppression of its people.

We, in conclusion, believe that any co-operation agreements concluded by Council member States with countries like Cuba should provide for secure financial support and clearly stated moral support for opposition groups or formations. We also see the Cuban regime as a complicit actor in Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine, by providing troops for training in Belarus.

We, in this connection, consider that the EU's Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) with Cuba in its present form has serious shortcomings in these regards, and should therefore be abandoned by Council of Europe member States who are also EU members.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA
ÅBERG Borianana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ARENT Iwona, Poland, EC/DA
CHRISTIANSSON Alexander, Sweden, EC/DA
GADIRLI Erkin, Azerbaijan, EC/DA
GARDINI Elisabetta, Italy, EC/DA
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC/DA
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD
HART Sally-Ann, United Kingdom, EC/DA
HOFFMANN Christoph, Germany, ALDE
HOWELL John, United Kingdom, EC/DA
KALCHENKO Serhii, Ukraine, EC/DA
KEEN Richard, United Kingdom, EC/DA
LEIGH Edward, United Kingdom, EC/DA
MANTOVANI Lucrezia, Italy, EC/DA
MEREZHKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, EC/DA
MIELI Ester, Italy, EC/DA
MUNCACIU Sorin-Titus, Romania, EC/DA
MURRAY Sheryll, United Kingdom, EC/DA
PAREREN Bob, van, Netherlands, EC/DA
PIETRELLA Fabio, Italy, EC/DA
RUSSELL Simon, United Kingdom, EC/DA
SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA José María, Spain, EC/DA
SCURRIA Marco, Italy, EC/DA
SPINELLI Domenica, Italy, EC/DA
STEGRUD Jessica, Sweden, EC/DA
TIMGREN Beatrice, Sweden, EC/DA
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 28

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party