



Final Resolution

The 132 participants of the European solidarity and friendship meeting from 32 countries and 50 organizations call on European governments and the EU institutions to demand the US-administration immediately lift the criminal (economic, financial and trade) blockade, imposed on the Cuban people for more than half a century.

We welcome the steps taken by the outgoing US-President Barack Obama of starting an open dialogue with the Cuban government, leading to the reestablishment of full diplomatic relations, and the easing of several restrictions against the Republic of Cuba. As part of this process we welcome the release and return of the five Cuban anti-terrorist heroes Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and Rene González to their homeland Cuba.

Despite these changes the blockade is still in existence and the extraterritorial effects of the blockade are harder than ever before. The Blockade and the threats of enormous fines from the US Office of Foreign Asset Control hinders corporations and even NGOs from all other countries working with Cuba. Guantánamo is still illegally occupied and US-institutions are still engaged in subversion and aggression against Cuba. We support Cuba's demands to be compensated by the USA for the enormous losses caused by the blockade and also by US terrorism during the years.

We are concerned with the incoming new US-Administration and their ability and willingness to continue the process of improving US-Cuban relations, a desire which is articulated not only by Cuba but also by a majority of the people of the United States as well as by all governments worldwide annually at the UN General Assembly vote.

We call upon the European Union to take a respectful position on Cuba based on equality and fairness, and not continue to participate in the enforcement of the U.S. blockade but to act in a tangible fashion against it and for its abolition – which follows logically from their voting against the US-blockade at the UN every year.

We will struggle very intensively in our communities and countries for the lifting of the European policy of the "common position" in reality, not only on paper as has been promised by the European Commission. We as active citizens of Europe also seek the deepening of bilateral relations between Cuba and our respective countries.

We also call on the EU to end the policy of double standards and to push for the closure of the U.S. concentration camp at Guantánamo Bay and the return of the area to its rightful owners, the people of Cuba.

Furthermore we call on all parties and movements in the EU and all countries in Europe to support and defend the progressive governments in Latin America put into power by the struggle of the people's movements. They are in the middle of a harsh anti-imperialist struggle against neoliberal and rightwing populist forces from the inside and the outside. Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua are examples. We condemn the USA's multi-million dollar subversive interference and regime change meddling.

We welcome the development of the Latin American Zone of Peace and the process towards a peaceful solution to the conflict in Colombia including supporting the ongoing peace talks taking place in Havana.

Cuba shows through its social, environmental and human achievements, and through international solidarity that there is a better and more real alternative. In several Latin American countries considerable success in the fight against poverty and for education is being achieved. With Cuban assistance illiteracy in Venezuela and Bolivia was eliminated, and a health care system for the poor has been established. This is possible because Cuba through its Peoples Power and socialism has proven that poor countries can develop welfare states in spite of extremely difficult conditions, while neoliberalism preaches to the people that the welfare state is an impediment to economic recovery from the crisis. All this shows the tremendous power and revolutionary spirit of Cuban society. The focus is always to combat misery and to leave no one on their own, but to allow all to live in dignity, justice and independence. This is therefore an incentive for progressive movements in Europe to seek unity and to counter the neoliberal recipes of reducing wages and social benefits with socially equitable economic and social policies. Cuba shows us that such a policy must be internationalist, that the irrational and destructive life styles and unending consumption have to be changed and that quality of life also consists in knowledge and culture.

**Adopted by the XVII European Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba
Stockholm, Sweden, November 20, 2016**