

EPP ASKS EU COMMISSIONER LUIS MICHEL TO EXPLAIN VISIT TO CUBA

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The European People's Party expressed today its commitment to fight against the repression of the Cuban people under Fidel Castro's regime and asked for the active engagement of European institutions for the liberation of dissidents that are still in prison and the respect for human rights in this country.

The European Union must, therefore, observe and assess whether Cuba is going to use the period until summer, during the suspension of EU sanctions, to press reforms and make provisions for more freedom and human rights.

Thus, the EPP asks EU Development Commissioner Louis Michel to explain to the European Council and the European Commission if he achieved any progress during his meeting with Fidel Castro on March 25th.

The European People's Party considers unacceptable the fact that many journalists, dissidents and upholders of human rights are still being held in jail, suffering from the lack of freedom and sustaining inhumane conditions in Cuban prisons. If the Cuban authorities fail to make any progress in this field, sanctions must be re-established.

The EPP once again stressed its commitment to the November 2004 Resolution of the European Parliament, which demands the release of all political prisoners and the promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as essential conditions for any revision of the EU Common Position on Cuba and the measures adopted unanimously on 5 June 2003.

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