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Cuba: EPP welcomes EU decision to keep Common Position, despite recent revisionist efforts from the Spanish Government

Brussels, 25 October 2010

The Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP), Antonio López-Istúriz, has welcomed today the decision taken by the European Union (EU) on keeping its Common Position on Cuba. According to the EPP Secretary General "this decision is clear support for the peaceful resistance inside and outside the country, and also maintains the demand from the Cuban government to respect human rights, rather than the revisionist efforts promoted until recently by the former Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister, Miguel Ángel Moratinos".

"EU Ministers have criticized Moratinos' approach and decided that the Common Position on Cuba is still valid since the recent releases of prisoners are positive, but clearly not enough. Today's decision is a clear message from the EU to the Spanish Government to rectify its wrong policy, which it developed on Cuba over the last years", he added.

The EPP Secretary General also said that "keeping the Common Position will be complemented by an eventual bilateral agreement between Cuba and the EU, which will be explored by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. She must also take into account the opinions of the peaceful Cuban dissidents and any agreement should be linked to the improvement of human rights in Cuba".

"The EPP, and its leaders like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, have asked and will continue to ask the Cuban regime to release all the political prisoners, to improve living conditions of the Cuban people, and to establish a truly democratic political system", he concluded.

(Translated from the original Spanish)

ENDS

Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 73 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 14 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

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