

# *Cuba and European Union further relations despite recent setbacks*

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Brussels, November 20 (RHC)-- Cuba and the European Union addressed the development of bilateral relations under the current joint accord on political and cooperation dialogue, despite recent actions by the European Parliament to hinder that process.

According to the Center for the Promotion of Foreign Trade and Investment, PROCUBA, the exchange took place Monday in Brussels at a meeting of the first sub-committee for Cooperation between the Parties, which was also the scenario for the signing of joint accords.

The subcommittee meeting is part of the implementation of the bilateral accord for a political and cooperation dialog, signed November 2016, which went into force November 1, 2017.

The meeting was headed by Cuba's Deputy Foreign Trade and Investment Minister Ileana Nuñez and by the EU's General Director for International Cooperation Stefano Manservigi.

The reestablished links between the European Union and the island nation after years of what was known as the EU's "Common Position" on Cuba, promoted by reactionary Spanish circles, was again attacked on

November 15th by a resolution passed by a majority of the European Union parliamentarians last week.

The resolution was condemned by Cuban lawmakers who argued that the document completely twists Cuban reality and runs contrary to the principles of respect, equality and reciprocity contained in the joint Accord for a Political and Cooperation Dialogue.

The EU Parliament resolution comes just before the upcoming visit to Cuba this week by the President of the Spanish Government, who is expected to further boost bilateral relations between the two countries.

The EU parliament resolution focuses on the ongoing drafting of a new Cuban constitution, which according to the document must include aspects related to human rights and political standards.

The resolution also threatens with using a clause that could hinder bilateral relations as established by the bilateral accord for a political and cooperation dialog between Cuba and the EU.

However, though such a resolution was proposed by the same circles that imposed the Single EU position on Cuba years ago and approved by a slight majority, the European Union countries have continued to look at possible ways to enhance relations with Cuba, as witnessed by the most recent meeting of the first sub-committee for Cooperation between the Parties.

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