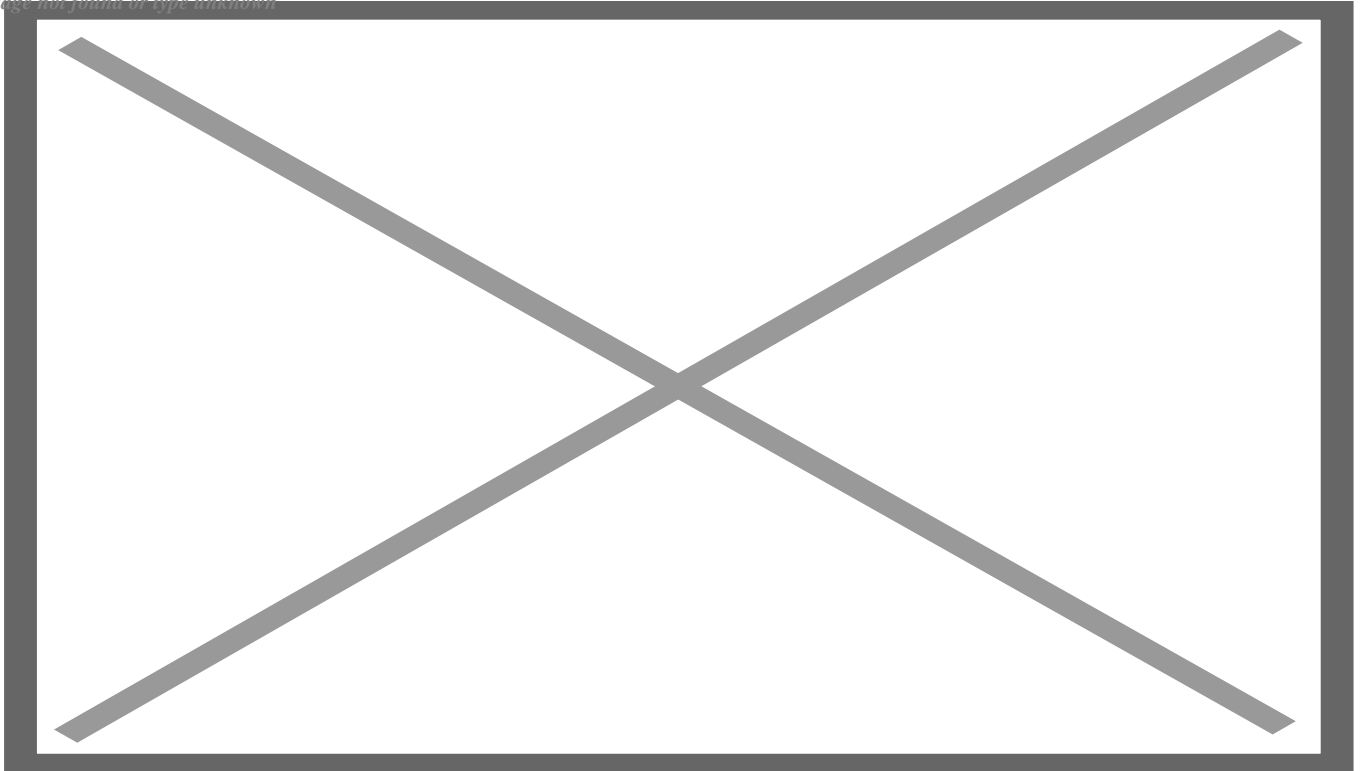


# *Cuba strengthens trade and economic ties with Eurasian bloc*

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**Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz.**

Havana, August 26 (RHC)-- Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero participated virtually in the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting held in Cholpon-Ata, in the Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan, the Cuban Foreign Ministry announced.

Marrero declared that Cuba is strengthening trade and economic ties with member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking via videoconference at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, he stressed that cooperation in the fields of health and biotechnology are progressing at a good pace through the promotion of Cuban medicines, recognized by some member states of the Union.

In that sense, the Cuban leader highlighted the participation of the Caribbean nation as an observer in the Pharmacopoeia Committee of the Eurasian Economic Council, a good platform for the mutual exchange of points of view on health and related technical standards.

He also noted the progress of exchanges between representatives of the Mariel Special Development Zone and the Eurasian Economic Commission to learn about the experience of each of the parties in anticipation of establishing a joint trade relationship.

In this regard, he highlighted the interest of four bloc countries in creating an EAEU Industrial Park in Cuban territory.

The Caribbean premier stressed that the Cuban authorities are aware of the need to accelerate the implementation of projects in the agricultural sector related to the production and marketing of cow's milk and chicken meat.

In that line, he added that Havana presented to the partners appointed by the Eurasian Economic Commission the proposal of two projects on prioritized goals of the Cuban economy.

Marrero took advantage of the meeting to invite the Council member states to participate in the thirty-eighth Havana International Fair (FIHAV 2022), scheduled for November 14 to 18.

He argued that the event constitutes the most important general trade exchange in Cuba and the Caribbean and one of the most representative in Latin America, making it an excellent business platform for new and established companies.

"Havana will warmly welcome the representatives of the Eurasian space in the framework of the fair, which will provide an opportunity to expand the exchange between entrepreneurs in areas of mutual interest," the prime minister emphasized.

He also reaffirmed the Cuban government's willingness to work for the fulfillment of the tasks outlined by the Eurasian Economic Union.

The island maintains close relations of friendship and cooperation with the nations that make up the EAEU (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia) and attaches particular significance to the development of multifaceted cooperation with the bloc.

The bloc was created in 2015 and has among its priorities the promotion of the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor.

Cuba intervened for the first time in this type of event on December 11, 2020, when it was granted observer status, and since then participated in four sessions of the Council.

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