

Cuba signs treaties on human rights

On February 28, Cuba's government signed two key international human rights treaties - The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The desire to sign them was announced by Cuban officials already on December 10, 2007.

The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantees "civil and political freedom", including the right to self-determination, peaceful assembly, freedom of religion, privacy, freedom to leave a country, and equal protection before the law.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights requires countries to ensure the right to work, fair wages, freedom to form and join trade unions, social security, education and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

This step is very positive, since it acquiesces with the demand from inside Cuba and from the international community.

Source:

Cuba signs human rights treaties at UN, The Miami Herald, February 28, 2008
Cuba firma dos acuerdos de derechos humanos y los condiciona al fin del embargo, ABC, February 29, 2008

Member of EU Commission Louis Michel visited Cuba

During his visit to Havana March 6 – 9, EU Aid Commissioner Louis Michel spoke with various Cuban officials including Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, Vice President Carlos Lage and National Assembly speaker Ricardo Alarcon.

Michel is convinced that EU diplomatic sanctions against the communist island should be dropped after Fidel Castro's retirement.

Michel said that EU must find a way to unlock the situation with Cuba and that he will try to persuade the EU's 27 member states to scrap diplomatic sanctions that were adopted after a crackdown on dissent in 2003 but have not been enforced since 2005.

Source:

EU official in Cuba to improve relations, The Miami Herald, March 7, 2008
EU commissioner wants Cuba sanctions abolished, Reuters, March 9, 2008