

JOINT DECLARATION

on the visit to Cuba of Mr Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Development of the European Commission on areas and modalities provisionally identified for cooperation

On October 24th, 2008, Mr F. Pérez Roque, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba and Mr Louis Michel, EC Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, signed a declaration by which the two parties agreed to resume cooperation activities without conditions and in full respect of national and Community legislation and agreed on the principles on which it will be based.

During his visit, the Delegation met Mr Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation of Cuba, to discuss the areas of intervention, implementation modalities, and cooperation activities to be developed.

Both delegations exchanged views on internationally agreed development actions, including the Millenium Development Goals, whose realisation faces multiple challenges characterised by the international financial crisis, slowing global economic growth, rising food prices, as well as the impact of environmental degradation and climate change.

Based on this exchange and taking into account the characteristics of Cuba in this context, it was agreed that:

- I. The resumption of development cooperation should focus on mutually beneficial and identified areas and will aim at promoting development and economic, technical and scientific cooperation.*
- II. The identified activities will initially focus on:*
 - 1. Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. Supporting the efforts of reconstruction and rehabilitation following hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Paloma.*
 - 2. Food Security. Supporting projects and activities aimed at increasing the efficient production of food.*
 - 3. Trade. Trade enhancement through the exchange of information and the organisation of technical information seminars.*
 - 4. Environment. Supporting the project 'Biological Corridor' between Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as well as other projects of Cuban and European partners in the areas of environment and energy, selected by ways of a call for proposals;*

M

R

5. *Research and Technology. Support to Science & Technology capacity building, also in view of enhancing Cuba's participation in the 7th Research and Development Framework Programme of the European Commission;*
6. *Disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Including regional exchanges to promote best practice, benefitting from the experience of Cuba in this area.*
7. *Culture. Including contributing to the rehabilitation of the Old Havana Historical Centre.*
8. *Non-state actors . Continued support to their initiatives.*

III. *For the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the damages caused by the hurricanes, Cuba establishes its territorial and sectorial priorities as follows:*

Territorial priorities: *Holguín, Las Tunas, Granma, Pinar del Río, Isle of Youth and Camaguey.*

Sectorial priorities: *recovery of agricultural infrastructure, health institutions, educational centres and hydraulic systems. Activities in the sector of housing rehabilitation could also be considered.*

IV. *The modalities of cooperation would include:*

1. *Implementation of projects and programmes.*
2. *Exchange of experiences and best practices.*
3. *Organisation of seminars, conferences and workshops.*
4. *Sharing of information in areas of common interest.*
5. *Other potential modalities agreed by the parties.*

V. *Activities of cooperation could be implemented bilaterally or in the context of regional cooperation in the Caribbean and Latin American regions.*

VI. *Taking into account the extensive presence of Cuba in development efforts in third countries and its particularly relevant expertise in a number of areas, the possibility of triangular cooperation will be considered..*

VII. *As far as the European Commission is concerned, cooperation would build progressively of the instruments available and would be channelled through different eligible partners and through adequate channels.*

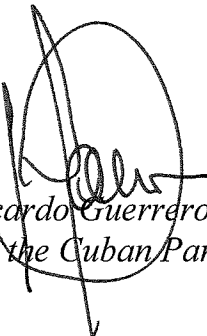
VIII. *The European Commission stands ready to continue providing ad hoc humanitarian aid to Cuba, in accordance with fundamental principles of this type of aid.*

mu

Q

- IX. Technical and information seminars will be organized either in Cuba or in Europe on areas of mutual interest.*
- X. The appropriateness of organising a first high-level event covering the different issues related to development cooperation will be considered in due time. Such an event could be held in Havana during the first semester of 2009.*
- XI. The Ministry for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation (MINVEC) of Cuba and the European Commission (EC) may put in place further specific cooperation arrangements for the identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development cooperation activities.*
- XII. Entities designated to follow up on this Agreement are, on behalf of the Cuban party, the Europe Division of MINVEC, and, on behalf of the European Commission, the EC Delegation in Havana on the other part. They will meet every month to assess and operationalise actions to be implemented, and contribute to their realisation.*

Done in Havana, on the 26th of November 2008.



Ricardo Guerrero Blanco
For the Cuban Party



Stefano Manservigi
For the European Commission

