



*Attn: Mr Josep Borrell, Vice-President of the European Commission and  
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*

*Brussels, March 2, 2021*

Dear VP/HR Mr. Borrell,

The undersigned MEPs have learned that 16 Members of the European Parliament sent a letter to the High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, requesting the replacement of the EU Ambassador to Cuba, Mr. Alberto Navarro. He is absurdly accused, among other things, of joining a letter sent to US President Joe Biden calling for the lifting of sanctions on Cuba.

Mr. Navarro's request for an end to the blockade is in line with a position that the European Union has been advancing in recent years. We would like to recall that, in 2018, the then High Representative and Vice-President Federica Mogherini described the "embargo policy" as obsolete and illegal because it led to a worsening of the quality of life of the people on the island. Ms. Moguerini also insisted on the unviability of the blockade and advocated the need to build bridges, not walls, with Cuba.

The EU has maintained this same position in the annual votes in the UN General Assembly, where every year a majority of the votes are held to call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade, which constitutes a violation of the human rights of the Cuban people; generally, with the only votes against being cast by the United States and Israel. In these sessions, the illegal, unilateral, extraterritorial and contrary to international law nature of this policy is highlighted. In addition, the activation of Titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act affects the interests of European companies and citizens.

Therefore, we do not understand that the European Union has summoned Mr. Navarro to Brussels for an action that is in line with the official position of the Union, especially taking into account the aid provided by Cuba and its medical brigades during the first wave of the pandemic throughout the world, including European countries. This could be interpreted as a political message of distancing relations with Cuba.

Let us not forget that those who criticise Mr Navarro and call for his replacement are the same people who have advocated the suspension of the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement; they are the same people who would like us to return to the failed "common position".



As members of the European Parliament, representing the sentiments and interests of our citizens, we support Ambassador Navarro's position of supporting the cessation of sanctions; and we reject the demand of our parliamentary colleagues that he be replaced. Such a position does not correspond to the EU's determined policy towards Cuba as enshrined in the ADPC.

Best regards,

**Manu Pineda**  
**Marc Botenga**  
**Chris MacManus**  
**Clare Daly**  
**Cornelia Ernst**  
**Dimitrios Papadimoulis**  
**Elena Kountoura**  
**Ernest Urtasun**  
**Giorgos Georgiou**  
**Helmut Scholz**  
**Idoia Villanueva**  
**João Ferreira**  
**Kateřina Konečná**  
**Konstantinos Arvanitis**  
**Manuel Bompard**  
**Maria Eugenia Rodriguez Palop**  
**Martina Michels**  
**Massimiliano Smeriglio**  
**Mick Wallace**  
**Niyazi Kızılyürek**  
**Özlem Demirel**  
**Pernando Barrena**  
**Sandra Pereira**  
**Sira Rego**  
**Stelios Koulouglou**