



RESOLUTION

on

CUBA

1. In light of recent events such as the meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in January in Havana and attended by the vast majority of representatives of that region, and the European Union's announcement that it has initiated contact with the Cuban government aimed at opening a process of negotiations to achieve a bilateral agreement on political dialogue and cooperation with Cuba, the CDI reiterates its call to the international democratic community to ask the Cuban government to begin a real complete process of reforms covering the economic, political and social framework.

2. Traditionally, the CDI has been opposed to the measures that have sought the isolation of Cuba at international level, a position which we have defended in different international political forums. However, at the same time we believe, with greater conviction, that it is unacceptable for the island's government to withdraw completely and isolate its own citizens from the beneficial political and economic changes that have taken place and continue to do so in most of the states of Latin American, the Caribbean, the Middle East and other regions of the world.

3. The purpose of welcoming Cuba into the different international organisations and systems should not be to increase the impotence of those who, within a context of resistance to change and abuse of human rights, can do nothing but interpret these gestures as significant recognition for the behaviour of the island's government, the cause of its suffering. Nor should a favourable atmosphere be created for a state to mock the democratic requirements that the members of an organisation have drawn up and signed - and here the democracies have particular responsibility. In this regard, it is important to remember that six years ago, in February 2008, the Cuban government signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Pact and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, amidst considerable publicity at the United Nations Headquarters in New York but has refused to ratify or enforce them since.

4. The CDI views with concern the process of criminal investigation for an alleged crime of "distribution of false information against international peace" pursued by the Cuban authorities against dissident Manuel Cuesta Morúa, spokesman for the Arco Progresista party, an unjust accusation, politically motivated and seeking to repress the exercise of human rights by Mr Cuesta Morúa. Likewise we condemn the relentless pursuit and arrest of married couple and dissidents, Iris Tamara Pérez Aguilera and Jorge Luís García Pérez Antúnez.