

## Centrist Democratic International ask the EU for more determination defending democracy in Cuba

**Rome, 11th of October 2019.** Centrist Democratic International (IDC-CDI) Executive Committee Meeting has today approved two resolutions denouncing the lack of freedom of the Cuban regime, criticising the recent visit to the island of the High Representative of the European Diplomacy, **Federica Mogherini**, and asking the next Head of the European Diplomacy show more determination defending democracy in the country.

The text underlines that while Mogherini, who also call the Island “key partner”, was meeting Cuban dictator, **Miguel Díaz- Canel**, the country suffered “a repressive wave resulting in more than a hundred arbitrary arrests, illegal house searches, beatings and other violations of legal process and civil liberties.”

The resolution also urges the next head of the European Diplomacy, **Josep Borrell**, to defend the principles of democracy and the rule of law in Cuba “in accordance with the values of the EU” stressing the necessity of an immediate meeting with all the opposition representatives.

IDC-CDI Secretary General, who is also Secretary General of the European People’s Party (EPP), **Antonio López-Istúriz**, has regretted the closeness of the current High Representative of the European Diplomacy with regimes that do not have any respect for human rights. “I hope and I wish that Mr. Borrell has a different approach toward the Castroist dictatorship. We have already seen that Ms Mogherini’s has not obtained any results”, he stated.

### Venezuela

IDC-CDI meeting also addressed the serious crisis that is devastating Venezuela, during a panel participated by the Major of Caracas in exile and 2017 Sakharov Award, **Antonio Ledezma**; the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, **Rodrigo Maia**; the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Guaidó’s National Assembly, **Francisco Sucre**; Honorary CDI President and former president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, **Pier-Ferdinando Casini**, and **López-Istúriz**.

All the speakers agreed on the necessity to end the dictatorial regime of **Nicolás Maduro** and that free and democratic elections in Venezuela should take place, led by the legitimate president interim of the country, **Juan Guaidó**. They also assured that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has the “competence to prosecute, arrest and penalise Nicolás Maduro”.

**López-Istúriz** said that “I will continue working from Brussels for the European Union to have more involvement in the resolution of the Venezuelan crisis”.

The IDC-CDI also approved a text calling on the International Community to stand by the Government of the current President **Lenin Moreno**, acknowledging the harm caused to the Rule of Law in the country by former President, **Rafael Correa** and condemning the political turmoil caused by the Venezuelan intelligence services in the country.



The IDC-CDI Executive Committee also passed resolutions on the current socio-political crisis in Guinea, the political situation of Lebanon, the African Free Trade Agreement, as well as on the consolidation of democratic values in the world.

IDC-CDI leaders have also strongly condemned Turkish military invasion into northern Syria, expressing deep concern over violations of the rights of the Kurdish population.

The resolutions can be found in the following links:

Cuba <http://bit.ly/2MuS3Ba>

Mogherini <http://bit.ly/2B1yMlx>

Africa <http://bit.ly/2oxdEkw>

Ecuador <http://bit.ly/3297iX5>

Guinea <http://bit.ly/2VwgHp4>

Libano <http://bit.ly/2Vy8ctA>

Values in power <http://bit.ly/2B43oTq>

**Note to editors:** The Centrist Democratic International (IDC-CDI) is a centre-right organisation gathering 99 political parties from 110 countries around the world.

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