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To:

**Demetris Christofias**  
**President of the Republic of Cyprus, Presidency of the Council of the EU**  
and other decisionmakers of the EU and member countries



August 6, 2012

Dear President Christofias,  
dear excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We citizens engaged in friendship and solidarity work for Cuba with our national organisations in many European countries, address this letter to you due to your position as current Head of the Council of the European Union.

As you know, more than 50 years ago the U.S. administration started its blockade against Cuba, 16 years ago the U.S. administration hardened the blockade laws, 10 years ago the U.S. administration established a prison-camp at Guantanamo Bay on Cuban territory containing more than 700 human beings and practiced torture. For more than 50 years the U.S. administration has been trying to topple the legitimate Cuban government and the political system which the Cubans have chosen and created for themselves.

For 15 years now the EU has followed the "Common Position of the EU on Cuba" which – intended or not – functions as a mere complement to the Cold War strategy of the U.S. administration against Cuba, runs counter to principles of international law and violates the sovereignty of the Cuban people.

More and more citizens in the EU find that Position unacceptable. We in Europe should act more fairly and be more future-oriented and constructive towards Cuba. We are looking forward to you as our representative taking steps in this direction.

We regard the votes at the UN General Assembly of all member governments of the EU against the US-blockade as a positive symbol and an important message. But we also recognize, that within the EU this vote has so far led to very limited practical results, and that it is high time for the EU as a whole to go from word to action.

We urge you to prepare and organise the immediate cancellation of the counterproductive "Common Position of the EU on Cuba". It is long overdue to lift this un-diplomatic approach which violates international principles like that of self-determination.

We, active citizens and civil society organizations from all over Europe urge you to intensify contacts and cooperation with Cuba, and would be pleased to see you taking such initiatives. Pressing issues like climate change, desertification, fair trade, technology transfer, etc. are currently dealt with far below the urgently needed level of cooperation required. After the recent U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 you have to offer opportunities for such steps – for a better and more sustainable future on this globe.

Yours Sincerely,

- AUSTRIA: *Michael Wögerer* (President), Österreichisch-Kubanische Gesellschaft and Prof. *Albrecht Konecny* (President of the Board of Trustees)
- BELGIUM: *Paul Evrard*, Cubamigos Belgium and *Katrien Demuynck*, Iniciativa Cuba Socialista – Belgium and *Alexandra Dirckx*, Vrienden van Cuba
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: *Sead Halilovic* (President), Association of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Friendship
- CZECH Republic: *Vladimir Sedlacek* (Free-the-Five Czech Committee)
- DENMARK: *Helene Caprani* (President), Association Denmark – Cuba
- GERMANY: *Harri Grünberg* (President), Netzwerk Cuba e.V.
- IRELAND: *Simon McGuinness* (National Coordinator), Cuba Support Group
- LUXEMBURG: *Joël Wunsch* (President) Amistad Luxemburgo-Cuba
- MALTA: *Victor Degiovanni*, Malta-Cuba Association
- NETHERLANDS: *Corrie van Dijk / Thomas Janssen*, Dutch Solidarity Comite CubaSol
- PORTUGAL: *Armanda C. Fonseca*, AssociçãO Portugal-Cuba
- SLOVENIA: *Igor JURISIČ*, president of Slovene - Cuban friendship association
- SPAIN: *Paco Calderon*, SODEPAZ
- SWEDEN: *Martin Österlin* (President), Swedish-Cuban Association
- UNITED KINGDOM: *Rob Miller* (Director) and *Bernard Regan* (Secretary) Cuba Solidarity Campaign