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To:

Helle Thorning-Schmidt,
Prime Minister Denmark, Head of the European Council
and other decisionmakers of the EU and member countries

*„Americans can always be counted
on to do the right thing – after they have
exhausted all other possibilities.”*
(Winston Churchill)

March 13, 2012

Dear Prime Minister Thorning-Schmidt,

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

As you know, more than 50 years ago the U.S. administration started its blockade against Cuba, 15 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, 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 and especially you, as our representative, should act more fairly and be more future-oriented and constructive towards Cuba.

We regard the votes at the UN General Assembly of all member governments of the EU against the US-blockade as a positive symbol. But we also recognize, that this kind of voting has, so far, had no positive effect on real politics of the EU vis-à-vis Cuba.

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. Pressing issues like climate change, desertification, fair trade, technology transfer, etc. are currently dealt with far below the urgently needed level of cooperation required. The upcoming U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 will offer an opportunity for such a step – for a better and more sustainable future on this globe.

Yours Sincerely,

- *Michael Wögerer* (President), Österreichisch-Kubanische Gesellschaft, AUSTRIA
- *Helene Caprani* (President), Association Denmark – Cuba, DENMARK
- *Andre Minier* (President), France Cuba, FRANCE
- *Harri Grünberg* (President), Netzwerk Cuba e.V., GERMANY
- *Simon McGuinness* (National Coordinator), Cuba Support Group IRELAND
- *Anna Serena Bartolucci* (Presidente), AsiCubaUmbria, ITALY
- *Dragoslava Koprivica* (Author), SERBIA
- *Martin Österlin* (President), Swedish-Cuban Association, SWEDEN
- *Rob Miller* (Director), Cuba Solidarity Campaign, UNITED KINGDOM