

50
ANNIVERSARY

CONGRESS
BERLIN 23-26 MAY 2023

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON CUBA

ADOPTED BY THE ETUC 15TH STATUTORY CONGRESS
(BERLIN, 23-26 MAY 2023)



TOGETHER FOR A
FAIR DEAL
FOR WORKERS

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON CUBA



The 15th Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation condemns the decision taken by Donald Trump in his last week as president to include Cuba on the list of countries that sponsor terrorism.

The inclusion in this list, -prepared by the US Department of State- implies strong economic restrictions, such as limitations for commercial exchange or access to international financing, among other coercive measures.

The position of the US government, which mainly affects the Cuban population, already seriously hit by the economic crisis that the island is suffering from the effects of COVID-19, the ineffectiveness of the economic measures implemented in recent years and the effects of the current blockade commercial, economic and financial, also harms the European workers of those EU companies that maintain activity on the Caribbean island and that, at the same time, see their interests and economic investments seriously threatened.

In addition, these limitations seriously affect the possibility of carrying out any international development cooperation policies on the island, including trade unions, for the most urgent needs of the Cuban population.

The unilateral economic sanctions against Cuba, which lack international support, as demonstrated by the periodic resolutions to that effect within the United Nations General Assembly, have produced none of the effects proclaimed by the US governments. On the contrary, they have only served to further deteriorate the economy and living conditions on the island, in addition to promoting a huge migratory flow from Cuba to Latin American countries, US and EU. But now also bans free of movement for non-Cuban citizens, including European trade unionist and European workers.

Despite the impact of the illegal blockade we note the achievements in health and education in Cuba and the ongoing example of international solidarity shown by the Cuban people, exemplified during the pandemic by sending health workers around the world. We stand in solidarity with our sister trade union confederation, the CTC.

For all these reasons, the European unions call on the EU, and its member states, to reject the US policy towards Cuba, which directly affects the chances that the EU, as well as its civil society (including trade union movement), continue working with the different sectors of Cuban society for the development of prosperous societies, with social justice, human rights and democracy. Many of the processes initiated in this regard are needed but now seriously threatened due to the aforementioned unilateral US policy of economic sanctions against Cuba.