

Fruitful Cuba-EU dialog on human rights

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27/03/2017



European ambassador to Cuba Hernan Portocarero described as fruitful the recent dialog between the European Union and Cuba on human rights and he noted that the objective is keep looking for a common stance.

The European diplomat spoke at a ceremony held Friday at the University of Havana marking the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, which constituted the response by a whole continent devastated and divided by two world wars and gave way to a stage of peace, prosperity and unprecedented security, he noted.

In December 2016, EU and Cuban representatives signed an accord for a political and cooperation dialog, which was considered the framework to develop links on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual respect between the European bloc and the island.

The accord also put an end to the 1996 EU common position on Cuba, which was initially rejected by Havana for its unilateral, interfering, selective and discriminatory nature.

For the Caribbean nation, economic relations with Europe keep being a priority for the development of a socialist efficient and sustainable economy, said Cuban

foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez during the signing of the document in December.

Rodriguez said that the accord would contribute to enriching the historic and culture relationship between the two sides and to develop to a larger extend political, commercial, financial, academic, cooperation and scientific ties.

In his lecture at the University of Havana, the European diplomat announced that the bloc will issue a statement in Rome defining integration actions to be implemented over the next years by all 28 EU member states.

Despite the many challenges posed by the current economic crisis, the migration of refugees and ISIS terrorism, European integration must keep going forward, said Portocarrero.

The ceremony at the University was attended by Rector Gustavo Cobreiro and officials from the Cuban Foreign Ministry, as well as members of the diplomatic community in Cuba.

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