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Moscow, Havana Discuss Cooperation before Medvedev's trip to Cuba

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Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov highlighted today the importance of holding the 17th session of the intergovernment joint commission on the eve of the official visit to Cuba of Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev.

'The current plenary session has a special meaning because it takes place on the eve of the visit to Cuba of the Russian head of government,' said Borisov, at the meeting held at the capital hotel President.

In January and June of last year we held meetings of the co-chairs of the mixed commission that allowed not only to determine the main tasks of Russian-Cuban cooperation, but also to take decisions to practical actions, said the deputy head of government.

We were able to organize an effective coordination mechanism to promote crucial cooperation projects and determine the new prospects for the realization of a list of priority programs of bilateral cooperation, the Russian official said.

In a private format, we analyzed with the Vice President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas crucial cooperation issues in areas such as finance, energy, industry, transport and agriculture, Borisov said.

The trade exchange speaks of the result of the work done, because in 2018 that parameter grew by 34 percent, while this year we observed a positive trend and at the end of 2019 we

sought to reach a level close to 500 million dollars, he stressed.

In addition to seeking a qualitative change in trade, it was agreed to jointly develop a new strategy of economic-commercial cooperation, with the completion of a Roadmap for its realization, said the Russian official.

The strategy includes documents in which common interest issues will appear and the steps for joint development of collaboration projects, said co-president of the Russian side of the Intergovernmental Commission for economic-commercial and scientific-technical cooperation.

Priorities will be taken into account for the preparation of that document until 2030, reflected in the Socio-Economic Development Program of Cuba and whose signature is expected in the near future, said the official.

He highlighted the realization of the first Exhibition of Cuba in Russia, within the framework of the 17th session of the Intergovernmental Commission, which became a platform to promote Cuba's export possibilities and to establish direct contacts between businessmen.

Cuba traditionally participates in the International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg and now we would like to have its presence in the Russian Energy Week in this capital and in the Open Innovation Forum, said the Deputy Prime Minister.

In turn, a Russian delegation will participate in the Fair of Havana Fihav 2019, said the deputy head of Government.

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