

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Rolandas Kriščiūnas
Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of Lithuania
2622 16th Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20009

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We write in regards to the upcoming vote in Lithuania's Parliament on the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) between the European Union (EU) and Cuba. The United States and Lithuania share a vision and set of values that have served as a foundation of the relationship between our nations for decades. Both of our countries understand the human cost of communism and must continue to work together to promote human rights and democratic values. Therefore, we urge the Lithuanian Parliament to oppose any agreement that would provide economic assistance to the brutal communist regime in Cuba.

It is our understanding that the PDCA was adopted in principle by the EU in 2017 and Lithuania is one of the last countries that has yet to ratify it. The Cuban regime remains an unfortunate remnant of the same communism that severely oppressed Lithuanians, and millions of others in the region, and continues to do so today in Venezuela and throughout Latin America.

The Cuban regime's violation of democratic norms and human rights have continued to worsen over the years, even as it increases its engagement with the rest of the world. Expanding political and economic benefits to an unreformed, intransigent regime in no way benefits the Cuban people, but instead serves to empower their oppressors.

As the United States and Lithuania share a commitment to freedom around the world, including in Cuba, we urge the Lithuanian Parliament to reject this agreement and stand in solidarity with the Cuban people.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator

Rick Scott
U.S. Senator