

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the Helms-Burton Bill**

The European Union would like Cuba to have a peaceful transition to democracy and respect for human rights. It takes the view that maintaining the political dialogue and encouraging economic relations are the means most suited to promote evolution towards democracy and Cuba's return to the international community.

The European Union therefore views the House of Representatives' approval on 21 September of the Helms-Burton bill in a negative light and takes the opportunity to reiterate its opposition to the adoption of any measure with extra-territorial application which is in conflict with the rules of international organizations, including those of the WTO.