



THE CUBA INITIATIVE

Overview

The Cuba Initiative was founded in 1995 in response to a request from the Governments of the United Kingdom and Cuba for an independent, bi-lateral, non-governmental body able to support and develop programmes that enhance the UK/Cuban relationship.

As such, the work of the Cuba Initiative complements the official UK/Cuban government-to-government relationship. The principal focus of the Cuba Initiative is on trade and investment.

The present Chairman of the UK-side of the Initiative is Lord Moynihan. A parallel and similar body in Havana is chaired by Ricardo Cabrisas, Minister of State in the Presidency.

The UK Initiative includes a wide range of parties interested in Cuba through its Network. This currently includes representatives of industry, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), officials from UK Government Departments, Members of the British Parliament and academics.

The Cuba Initiative is apolitical and aims to develop a consensus among all those with an interest in Cuban development of all political persuasions.

Objectives

The Cuba Initiative seeks to improve and strengthen relations between the United Kingdom and Cuba through constructive engagement and dialogue. In addition to promoting trade and investment it facilitates and fosters exchange in the fields of politics, government, trade, investment, science, sports, education and culture.

It also works to identify ways to enhance relations between Cuba and the European Union and to strengthen Cuba's ties with its neighbours in the Caribbean region.

Activities

The Cuba Initiative seeks to enhance bilateral relations by facilitating for its members and others, regular meetings with Cuban ministers and officials; the exchange of delegations between ministries, governments and parliaments; the organisation of seminars and conferences; the dissemination of information; and the provision of services to a broadly based membership.

The Cuba Initiative fosters a closer economic, trade and investment relationship and to deliver a sustained increase in trade and investment in all sectors. Priority is afforded to key strategic sectors:

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| i) Tourism | iv) IT and communications |
| ii) Energy and mining | v) Agriculture |
| iii) Biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry | vi) Finance |

Funding

The Cuba Initiative aims to be self-funding through the provision of services, subscriptions, grants and fund-raising events. Services will be provided to businesses, government, multilateral institutions and the Cuba Initiative's individual membership.