

The development of French-Cuban relations

France, a major political partner for Cuba

- **Visit to France by the Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister in May 2018**
- **2 symbolic mutual State visits, the first since Cuba's independence:**
 - The President of the French Republic in Havana in May 2015
 - President Raúl Castro in Paris in February 2016
- **1st visit of a French Foreign Minister since 1983: Laurent Fabius, in April 2014**
- **1st visit by a European Minister since the restoration of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba: Matthias Fekl, in March 2015**

A closer economic partnership

- **A joint roadmap signed in early 2016 set out six priority sectors: tourism, renewable energy, healthcare, transport, agri-food and urban development**
- **Tangible results:**
 - A branch of the French Development Agency was opened in Havana, inaugurated by Matthias Fekl, and an initial agricultural support project was launched
 - French companies (Bouygues-Aéroports de Paris) were contracted to upgrade the airports in Havana and San Antonio de los Baños
- **Increased interest in Cuba among French companies:**
 - Some 60 French companies are present in Cuba, including Pernod Ricard, Air France and Total
 - 48 French companies attended the Havana International Fair in November 2016
 - MEDEF International has a regular mission to Cuba, with about 30 companies during the most recent edition (January 2017)
- **210,000 French tourists visited Cuba in 2017 (up 12% from 2016).**

Close cooperation

- **The Alejo Carpentier lycée has an enrolment of over 300 students for the 2017-2018 school year**
- **In 2016, the *Alliance française*, housed in new premises at the Palacio Gomez, celebrated 65 years in Havana**
- **The Month of French Culture and the French Film Festival in Havana, both of which take place every May, have been a great success**

Updated: May 2018