

Spanish royals will visit Cuba in November



Havana, October 16 (RHC)-- Spain's King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia will visit Cuba next month as part of the 500th-anniversary celebrations of the island nation's capital Havana, the European Country's Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said on Wednesday.

"I can confirm the visit will take place in November" after the Spanish general elections on November 10, Borrell said during a visit to Havana where he met his Cuban counterpart, Bruno Rodríguez.

It will be the first official visit by a Spanish king since Juan Carlos participated in an Ibero-American summit in 1999.

Borrell said the visit would "mark a new milestone in the relations between our two people."

Spain's top diplomat - who from 1 November will be the new head of European diplomacy - acknowledged the atmosphere of open dialogue, with equality and respect, that his country maintains with Cuba.

He reiterated Spain's and the European Union's rejection of the United States' policy towards the island, in particular with the full application of the Helms-Burton Act.

Rodríguez said the royal couple would be "received in Havana with warm hospitality from our government and our people."

The Cuban Foreign minister spoke about the atmosphere of friendliness in which the official conversations with his Spanish counterpart took place, as a continuation of the visit of President Pedro Sánchez almost a year ago.

He thanked Spain for its firm opposition to the U.S. blockade against Cuba and its extraterritorial application and explained to the Spanish foreign minister the additional measures put into practice, such as obstructing fuel supplies.

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