

## Oswaldo Payá invited to European Parliament Human Rights Conference

The President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, has invited Cuban opposition leader Oswaldo Payá to the Human Rights Conference to be held on November 23, according to the democracy activist's website.

The website adds that "Cuba's ruling military junta does not allow its citizens to travel freely; therefore, the European Parliament must demand that the Government of Cuba allow Oswaldo Payá to travel."

The attached invitation letter, signed by the President of the European Parliament, reads: "I have the pleasure to confirm my invitation to you, as a member of the Network of Sakharov Prize Laureates" to participate in the High-Level Human Rights Conference to be held in Brussels on November 23, 2011.

The conference, the invitation says, will be an opportunity to bring together the Sakharov Prize laureates to participate in joint activities, strengthen the activities of the network and reinforce their ties with the European Parliament and other human rights defenders and civil society organizations.

The event will include several activities, including a welcome in the European Parliament and an opportunity to participate in the official presentation of the "Sakharov Hall." Two opinion panels will address the challenges of human rights and the participants will take part in a public event on the Network of Sakharov Prize Laureates.

Oswaldo Payá, coordinator of the Christian Liberation Movement (*Movimiento Cristiano de Liberación*), organizer of the Varela Project, received the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for the defense of human rights in 2002.