



EU-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PARTNERSHIP

The Dominican Republic (DR) is a privileged partner for the European Union (EU), due to shared values of democracy and human rights, a dynamic and open economy with sustained growth, for its dual identity as a Latin American and Caribbean country, for its active participation in various forums dedicated to regional integration and for the historical, cultural and familial ties that bind us. DR has actively condemned Russian aggression against Ukraine, and upheld Ukrainian sovereignty at the United Nations.

The EU and the DR have maintained excellent relations since 1989, when the DR joined the [Association Agreement between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) States](#). The Cotonou Agreement, renewed in 2021, seeks to **promote democracy, respect for human rights, the eradication of poverty and the advantageous insertion of the countries of ACP States in the international economy.**



The main instruments for the fulfilment of these goals are political dialogue, privileged economic relations and a supportive cooperation relationship to contribute to sustainable development at the economic, social, and environmental levels.

The Dominican Republic is a member of the Central American Regional Integration System (SICA). As a member of SICA, the Dominican Republic participates as an observer in our political dialogue with the region, the [EU-Central America Joint Committee under the EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement \(PDCA\)](#).

	REGIONAL INTEGRATION		STRENGTHENING SECURITY		ECONOMIC, TRADE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION
	DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW		HUMAN RIGHTS		FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

TRADE

Bilateral economic and trade relations between the EU and the DR are governed by the [CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) signed in 2008. Since the entry into force of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the DR has become a champion of its implementation and bilateral trade in goods has grown by 231%. The EU is the third most important trading partner for DR (around 10% of DR's total trade), right after USA (43%) and China (14%). DR is by far the largest economy in the Caribbean and the seventh economy in LAC.

	
<p>A HISTORICAL TRADE RECORD WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2022, REACHING €4.1 BN, A 27% INCREASED COMPARED TO 2021</p> <p>TOTAL EXPORTS EU → DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: €2.7 BN (2022) Mainly manufactured products (machinery, appliances), fuels and mineral oils.</p> <p>TOTAL EXPORTS DOMINICAN REPUBLIC → EU: €1.4 BN (2022) Mainly food products (vegetable products, foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco).</p>	<p>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS EU'S MAIN TRADING PARTNER AND MAIN RECIPIENT OF EUROPEAN INVESTMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION.</p> <p>EU COMPANIES ARE PRESENT IN THE TOURISM, ENERGY, SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORT, DISTRIBUTION AND COMMERCE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS SECTORS.</p>



COOPERATION



The EU and the Dominican Republic's partnership stems from striving to achieve the **common objective of more inclusive, just, and sustainable societies**, for which more than €1 billion has been set aside over the last 30 years. Our cooperation therefore involves the Dominican government, civil society, and private sector and is delivered as Team Europe¹. **Team Europe** presently makes use of the full array of instruments at our disposal to design, reform, and implement key public and sectoral policy and facilitate funding to deliver change that works for people and the environment.

1. Team Europe brings together the EU and its Member States, including financial and development institutions and private sector.



Global
Gateway

EU-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PARTNERSHIP



A MODERN STATE CLOSE TO ITS CITIZENS

Underpinning the EU-DR partnership is the longstanding commitment to institutional strengthening and rule of law. Valuable progress has been achieved in rendering the Dominican public administration more accountable, effective, and responsive to citizen needs through continued EU support to public financial management (PFM) reforms. An improved PFM system is more likely to equitably distribute national income and implement public policy with attention to cross-cutting issues such as climate change (EU support to environmental regulation) and gender equality (EU implements the first LAC budget support programme entirely dedicated to gender-based violence prevention). The DR is also the first country in LAC to take part in the EU's Twinning programme, a framework for institutional cooperation matching European public administrations with those of the partner country. In the DR, the first twinning aims to improve the efficiency, quality, and integrity of judicial services.



GREEN, SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE TRANSITION

In line with the European Green Deal, the EU takes into particular consideration the environmental needs of the DR and mainstreams action against climate change across its approach. This includes targeted support to the institutional framework (environmental regulation, implementation of DR's Nationally Determined Contribution, supporting biodiversity policies, increasing capacities in relation to disaster risk management, etc) and to the private sector with focus on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) (promoting competitiveness, sustainable production practices, and inclusion). Crucially, Team Europe will continue promoting green investments in urban mobility, water and sanitation, waste management and ecosystem protection. The EU also sees the DR as a strategic partner to expand the international sustainable finance markets.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The DR's leadership and ambition in digital transformation allow to pursue a comprehensive digital partnership in the framework of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance where the design, governance, and use of technology place people and their rights at the core. Through the provision of leading European expertise, the EU contributes to simplifying and securing the delivery of Dominican public services. The EU-funded LAC Cyber Competence Centre in Santo Domingo aims to strengthen national and regional cyber resilience and capacity.

