

The 20th Overseas Countries and Territories · European Union Forum
THE 20TH OCTs·EU FORUM
26-29 FEBRUARY 2024, BRUSSELS/BELGIUM

DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1 · MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY

VENUE: NH HOTEL, JEAN REY ROOM, BD. CHARLEMAGNE 11/19, 1000 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

TRILATERAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS

Between OCTs, EU Member States, and the European Commission: Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), Unit B3 in charge of the OCTs

08:30 - 08:45 Welcome Coffee

08:45 - 09:30 French Polynesia, France, DG INTPA.B3

09:30 - 10:15 Wallis and Futuna, France, DG INTPA.B3

10:15 - 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 - 11:30 New Caledonia, France, DG INTPA.B3

11:30 - 12:15 Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, France, DG INTPA.B3

12:15 - 13:00 Greenland, Denmark, DG INTPA.B3

13:00 - 14:00 Break

14:00 - 14:45 Aruba, the Netherlands, DG INTPA.B3

14:45 - 15:30 Bonaire, the Netherlands, DG INTPA.B3

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 16:45 Curaçao, the Netherlands, DG INTPA.B3

16:45 - 17:30 Saba, the Netherlands, DG INTPA.B3

DAY 2 · TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY**VENUE:** NH HOTEL, JEAN REY ROOM, BD. CHARLEMAGNE 11/19, 1000 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**TRILATERAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS**

Between OCTs, EU Member States, and the European Commission: Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), Unit B3 in charge of the OCTs

08:30 - 09:00 Welcome Coffee**09:00 - 09:45** **French Southern and Antarctic Lands, France, DG INTPA.B3****09:45 - 10:30** **Saint-Barthélemy, France, DG INTPA.B3****10:30 - 11:00** Coffee Break**11:00 - 11:45** **Sint Maarten, the Netherlands, DG INTPA.B3****11:45 - 12:30** **Sint Eustatius, the Netherlands, DG INTPA.B3****12:30 - 13:30** Free lunch break**VENUE:** NH Hotel, De Gasperi Room, Bd. Charlemagne 11/19, 1000 Brussels, Belgium **Interpretation:** English/French**THEMATIC WORKSHOP: REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INTEGRATION**

The objective of the workshop is to explore and strengthen the role of OCTs in win-win partnership initiatives with other countries and territories, including the EU Outermost Regions, to fight climate change, promote biodiversity, support energy transition, and enhance connectivity – contributing to the priorities of the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

13:30 - 14:00 Registration and Welcome Coffee**Introduction****14:00 - 14:05**● **Anna Burylo**

Head of Unit, DG INTPA.B3: Overseas Countries and Territories

KEYNOTE ADDRESS**14:05 - 14:15****Global Gateway Strategy: Tackling Together Global Challenges**● **Felix Fernandez-Shaw**

Director, DG INTPA.B: Latin America, The Caribbean and Overseas Countries and Territories

Partnership Opportunities in a Regional Context**14:15 - 14:45**

● Statements by Representatives of the OCTs:

○ **Xavier Lédée**

President of the Territorial Council of Saint-Barthélemy

○ **Charles Cooper**

Minister of Traffic, Transport & Urban Planning of Curaçao

○ **Munipoésé Muliaka'aka**

President of the Territorial Assembly of Wallis and Futuna

○ **Vivian Motzfeldt**

Minister of Statehood and Foreign Affairs of Greenland

PANEL DISCUSSIONS**Regional Partnership Initiatives and Investment Needs in the Caribbean, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the North Atlantic and the Arctic**

Two panel discussions on Digital Connectivity and Green and Blue Economy will take us on a 'journey' around the world, across diverse geographies where OCTs are located, to explore shared regional interests and partnership opportunities.

"Discussants' Table" contributing to Panel 1 and 2

Our "Discussants' Table" will enable a dynamic, cross-disciplinary dialogue on themes presented in the Panels - unveiling avenues for financing and providing insights on instruments that can streamline the development of sustainable projects.

14:45 - 17:50

- **Paula Duarte Gaspar**
European Commission, Head of Unit, DG REGIO A1: Outermost Regions
- **Tanguy Desrousseaux**
European Investment Bank (EIB), Head of Division of Public Sector & Infrastructure Division (France, Benelux & Ireland), Lending Operations in Western Europe
- **Catarina Dantas Machado**
European Commission, Policy Officer, DG ECFIN L3: Invest EU Implementation
- **Ahab Charles Downer**
Director, EU Green Overseas Programme implemented by Expertise France
- **Anna Burylo**
European Commission, Head of Unit, DG INTPA.B3: Overseas Countries and Territories

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

The focus is on regional partnerships to enhance digital connectivity and integration of the OCTs into the world economy. We will explore effective strategies supporting digital infrastructure investments, including submarine cables. With practical examples from the Arctic and Caribbean regions, the discussion will provide insights into successful digital connectivity projects and their impact on regional development.

14:45 - 16:00

- **Dan-Mihai Chirila**
European Commission, Policy Officer, DG CNECT B5: Investment in High-Capacity Networks
- **Juan Thijsen**
Plenipotentiary Minister of Aruba in the Hague
- **Silvia Viceconte**
European Commission, Head of the Digital Sector, DG INTPA B2: Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, and Regional Operations
- **Karina Marcus**
Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) of the European Commission, Project Advisor for the Connect Europe Facility
- **Steen Louis Hansen**
Department Manager at Greenlandic Telecommunications Company: Tusass

Q&A session with the audience**16:00 - 16:20** Coffee Break

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

The focus is on the synergies within the Green and Blue Economy to inspire collaborative solutions for sustainable development. Specific topics include combating sargassum in the Caribbean, promoting biodiversity conservation in the Indian Ocean, strengthening ocean governance and nature-based responses to climate change in the Pacific and the Arctic, and achieving closer integration of sustainable critical raw materials value chains.

16:20 - 17:50

- **Moray Gilland**
European Commission, Head of Unit, DG REGIO D1: Macro-regions, Transnational / Interregional / External Cooperation, Enlargement
- **Xavier Lédée**
President of the Territorial Council of Saint-Barthélemy
- **Karine de Fremont**
Deputy Director of the Department 'Trois Océans', Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- **Jean-Louis Ville**
European Commission, Head of Unit, DG INTPA C3: East Asia and the Pacific
- **Peggy Roudaut**
Project Manager of the PROTEGE (Pacific Territories Regional EU Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management) implemented by the Pacific Community
- **Peter Handey**
European Commission, Head of Unit, DG GROW I1: Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials

Q&A Session with the Audience

CLOSING REMARKS

17:50 - 18:00 ● **Felix Fernandez-Shaw**
Director, DG INTPA.B: Latin America, The Caribbean and Overseas Countries and Territories

18:00 - 19:00 Networking Cocktail

DAY 3 · WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

VENUE: NH HOTEL, DE GASPERI ROOM, BD. CHARLEMAGNE 11/19, 1000 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

 **Interpretation:** English/French

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE OCTS ASSOCIATION (OCTA):
IN THE MARGINS OF THE FORUM**

09:00 - 16:00 **OCTA Ministerial Conference (internal meeting)**

19:00 - 21:00 **Gala Dinner hosted by the OCTA Chair (Greenland):**
● by invitations only (*Venue : NH Hotel, Bd. Charlemagne 11/19, 1000 Brussels, Belgium*)

DAY 4 · THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024

VENUE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION, BERLAIMONT BUILDING, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

All Plenary Meetings will be held in the **Walter Hallstein Room: 1st Floor**

All Trilateral Meetings with the European Commissioner will be held in the **Jean Rey Room: 1st Floor**

 **Interpretation:** Danish/Dutch/English/French

THE 20TH OCTS-EU FORUM: FORUM PLENARY SESSION

Moderator: Florence Ranson

08:30 - 09:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30 - 09:40 Welcome and Introduction

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

09:40 - 10:00

- **Jutta Urpilainen**
European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- **Vivian Motzfeldt**
Minister of Statehood and Foreign Affairs of Greenland (OCTA Chair)

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

10:00 - 10:45

- **Louis Mapou**
President of the Government of New Caledonia (tbc)
- **Marie Guévenoux**
Minister for Overseas Territories of France
- **Charles Cooper**
Minister of Traffic, Transport & Urban Planning of Curaçao
- **Alexandra Van Huffelen**
State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands
- **Vivian Motzfeldt**
Minister of Statehood and Foreign Affairs of Greenland
- **Tobias Elling Rehfeld**
Ambassador, Head of Department for Arctic and North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

10:45- 11:15

- **Jeroen Cooreman**
Director General for Bilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Presidency of the Council of the EU
- **Stéphane Bijoux**
Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development
- **Huguette Bello**
President of the Réunion Regional Council, President of the Conference of Presidents of the Outermost Regions (video statement)

11:15-11:45 Coffee Break · Official Photo

**REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INTEGRATION
POLITICAL STATEMENTS**

- 11:45 -13:00**
- Representatives of the OCTs
 - **Clark Abraham**
Commissioner of Bonaire
 - **Taivini Teai**
Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources of French Polynesia (tbc)
 - **Florence Jeanblanc-Risler**
Prefect of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands
 - **Xavier Lédée**
President of the Territorial Council of Saint-Barthélemy
 - **Rene Violenus**
Minister Plenipotentiary of Sint Maarten
 - **Kim Jørgensen**
Director General and Permanent Representative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) to the EU Institutions
 - **Jutta Urpilainen**
European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Discussion

13:00 - 15:30 **TRILATERAL MEETINGS**
Lunch will be served between 13:00 and 14:45

- 13:00-13:30** **TRILATERAL MEETINGS**
- **Jutta Urpilainen**
European Commissioner for International Partnerships
 - Representatives of **Greenland**
 - Representatives of **Denmark**

13:30-14:00 Break

- 14:00-14:45** **TRILATERAL MEETINGS**
- **Jutta Urpilainen**
European Commissioner for International Partnerships
 - Representatives of **French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, New Caledonia, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and Wallis and Futuna**
 - Representatives of **France**

- 14:45-15:30** **TRILATERAL MEETINGS**
- **Jutta Urpilainen**
European Commissioner for International Partnerships
 - Representatives of **Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten**
 - Representatives of the **Netherlands**

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURE

- **Naja-Theresia Høegh**
former OCT Youth Network member
- **Members of the OCTs Youth Network**

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

15:30 - 16:30

- **Representatives of the OCTs**
 - **Eviton Heyliger**
Commissioner of the Executive Council of Saba
 - **Nicoline van der Linden**
Deputy Government Commissioner of Sint Eustatius
 - **Bernard Briand**
President of the Territorial Council of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon
 - **Munipoésé Muliaka'aka**
President of the Territorial Assembly of Wallis and Futuna
- **Jutta Urpilainen**
European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Discussion
Exchanges with the Youth

16:30 - 16:45 Coffee Break

SIGNATURE CEREMONY
IN FRONT OF THE JEAN REY ROOM

16:45 - 17:10

Multiannual Indicative Programmes and Multiannual/Annual Action Plans
financed under the Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland (DOAG)

ADOPTION OF JOINT FORUM CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSURE OF THE FORUM

17:10 - 17:30

- **Evelyn Wever-Croes**
Prime Minister of Aruba (incoming OCTA Chair)
- **Jutta Urpilainen**
European Commissioner for International Partnerships

GALA RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

19:30 - 22:30

- By invitations only (*Venue : **Château Sainte-Anne**, rue du Vieux Moulin 103, 1160 Auderghem, Brussels – transport from/to NH Hotel will be provided by organisers*)