

The 21st Overseas Countries and Territories - European Union Forum

THE 21st OCTS·EU FORUM

9- 14 April 2026, Aruba

DAY 1 · Thursday, 9 April

TRILATERAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS

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

VENUE: Embassy Suites Hotel (Arikok/Hooiberg Meeting Room)

08:30 - 08:45	Welcome Coffee
08:45 - 09:45	Aruba , the Netherlands, DG INTPA
09:45 - 10:45	Bonaire , the Netherlands, DG INTPA
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:00	Curaçao , the Netherlands, DG INTPA
12:00 - 13:00	Saba , the Netherlands, DG INTPA
13:00 - 14:00	Break
14:00 - 15:00	Sint Maarten , the Netherlands, DG INTPA
15:00 - 16:00	Sint Eustatius , the Netherlands, DG INTPA

19:00 - 21:00

OCTA Cocktail reception - Embassy Suites Hotel, Terrace area

DAY 2 · Friday, 10 April

TRILATERAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS

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

VENUE: Embassy Suites Hotel (Arikok/Hooiberg Meeting Room)

09:30 - 09:45	Welcome Coffee
9:45 - 10:45	French Southern and Antarctic Lands , France, DG INTPA
10:45 - 11:45	Greenland , Denmark, DG INTPA
11:45 - 13:00	Break

13:00 - 14:00	French Polynesia , France, DG INTPA
14:00 - 15:00	Saint Pierre and Miquelon , France, DG INTPA
15:00 - 16:00	Saint Barthelemy , France, DG INTPA
16:00 - 17:00	Wallis and Futuna , France, DG INTPA
17:00 - 18:00	New Caledonia , France, DG INTPA

DAY 3 · Saturday, 11 April

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE OCTS' ASSOCIATION (OCTA)

VENUE: Embassy Suites Hotel (Bubali Meeting Room)

Interpretation: English/French)

08:30 - 16:30	OCTA Ministerial Conference
Trilateral High-Level Meeting VENUE: Embassy Suites Hotel (Arikok Meeting Room)	
17:30 - 18:15	Trilateral High-Level Meeting • Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships • Representatives of Greenland • Representatives of Denmark
19:00 - 21:00	Dinner hosted by the OCTA Chair (Aruba) Papiamento Restaurant

DAY 4 · Sunday, 12 April

06:30 - 14:00	Field Visit to: Arikok National Park, Mural paintings in San Nicolaas, University of Aruba. Lunch at Aruba's Directorate for EU and Kingdom Relations
16:00 - 17:45 Trilateral High-Level Meetings VENUE: Embassy Suites Hotel (Bubali Meeting Room)	
16:00 - 16:45	Trilateral High-Level Meeting • Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships • Representatives of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten • Representatives of the Netherlands
17:00 - 17:45	Trilateral High-Level Meeting • Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships • Representatives of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten • Representatives from Saint Barthelemy and Saint Pierre and Miquelon • Representatives from Guadeloupe • Representatives of the Netherlands and France

DAY 5 · Monday, 13 April

FORUM PLENARY SESSION

VENUE: Embassy Suites Hotel (Bubali Meeting Room)

Interpretation: English/French. **Moderator:** Tamaisha Eytel

8:00 - 8:45	Trilateral High-Level Meeting • Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships • Representatives of French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, New Caledonia, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon and Wallis and Futuna • Representatives of France
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09:00 - 09:10	Welcome Address • Mike Eman, Prime Minister, Aruba
09:10 - 09:20	Keynote Speech • Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
09:20 - 09:30	Statement by the European Parliament • Younous Omarjee, Vice President of the European Parliament, European Parliament
09:30 - 10:10	Political Statements - Session 1 • Gerlien Croes, Minister of Kingdom Relations, Education, Youth, Innovation and Sports • John Soliano, Governor of Bonaire • Tyron Boekhoudt, Minister of Health, Environment and Nature of Curaçao • Eviton Heyliger, Commissioner of Saba • Reuben Merkman^o, Commissioner of Sint Eustatius • Drs. Gracita R. Arrindell, Minister Plenipotentiary of Sint Maarten • Eric van der Burg, Minister for Kingdom relations and Effective Government of the Netherlands
10:10- 10:25	Political Statements - Session 2 • Peter Borg, Minister for Fisheries, Hunting, Agriculture, Self-sufficiency, Nature, and Environment • Peter Wilhelm Lund Linde, Chief Adviser on Greenlandic Affairs, Department for the Arctic, North America and Nordic Cooperation of Denmark
10:25-10:45	Coffee Break

10:45 - 11:25	Political Statements - Session 3 ● Alcide Ponga, President of the Government of New Caledonia ● Bruno Peaucellier, Senior Adviser to the President of French Polynesia ● Xavier Lédée, President of Saint-Barthélemy ● Bernard Briand, President of the Territorial Council of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon ● Mikael Quimbert, Prefect of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF) ● Munipoésé Muliaka'aka, President of the Territorial Assembly of Wallis and Futuna ● Naima Moutchou, Minister of the Overseas France
11:25 - 11:45	Political Statements - Session 4 ● Ary Chalus, President of the Guadeloupe Region and President of the Conference of Presidents of the Outermost Regions ● Maria Rojas Gonzales, Head of the Representation to the Anglophone Caribbean and Regional Development Banks ● Kinaukovi Sonia Polutele, OCTs' Youth Network
11:45 - 12:00	● Concluding remarks by Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships ● Adoption of Joint Forum Conclusions
12:00 - 12:30	Signature Ceremony and Official Group Photo ● Regional Programme for the Caribbean: Sustainable Management of Caribbean OCTs' Natural Capital ● Culture and Creative Industries Programme for the OCTs: OCTs-EU Partnership on Culture ● Intraregional Programme for the French Southern and Antarctic Lands and La Reunion: Management of Ungulates and Predators ● StormWatch Initiative on Disaster Risk Management: Caribbean OCTs joining the Initiative ● BESTLIFE 2030: Supporting Biodiversity in the OCTs
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 19:00	Break
19:00 - 21:00 Reception hosted by the European Commission for the participants of the Forum, Embassy Suites Hotel, Terrace area	

DAY 6 · Tuesday, 14 April

INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

VENUE: Embassy Suites Hotel (Bubali Meeting Room)

Interpretation: English/French

08:45 - 09:00 Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:00 - 09:15

Opening of the Investment Conference

- **Geoffrey B. Wever**, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Primary Sector, Aruba
- **Felix Fernandez-Shaw**, Director, DG INTPA Directorate B, Latin America, Caribbean, and the Overseas Countries and Territories

09:15 - 10:45

Session 1

- Mobilising EU Global Gateway investments in OCTs: from instruments to implementation

10:45 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Session 2

- Private sector-led session: investing, trading and scaling in OCTs under the Global Gateway

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:30

Session 3

- From political priorities to investable flagships: a concrete example on Sargassum in the Caribbean

14:30 - 16:00

Session 4

- Regional deep dives on Flagship Regional Initiatives
 - Caribbean
 - Pacific & Indian Ocean
 - Greenland

16:00 - 16:15 **Summary of breakout sessions in Plenary**

16:15 - 16:30 **Closing Remarks**

16:30 - 18:30

Bilateral Meetings (to be pre-arranged)