Global Gateway

21st OCTs·EU FORUM
ARUBA · 9-14 APRIL 2026

Agenda

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 Eytle

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 Merkmanº**, 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)