

The 21st Overseas Countries and Territories - European Union Forum  
**THE 21<sup>st</sup> 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)

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

<b>09:30 - 09:45</b>	Welcome Coffee
<b>9:45 - 10:45</b>	<b>French Southern and Antarctic Lands</b> , France, DG INTPA
<b>10:45 - 11:45</b>	<b>Greenland</b> , Denmark, DG INTPA
<b>11:45 - 13:00</b>	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	<p><b>Trilateral High-Level Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jozef Síkela</b>, European Commissioner for International Partnerships</li> <li>• Representatives of French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, New Caledonia, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon and Wallis and Futuna</li> <li>• Representatives of France</li> </ul>
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09:00 - 09:10	<p><b>Welcome Address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mike Eman</b>, Prime Minister, Aruba</li> </ul>
09:10 - 09:20	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jozef Síkela</b>, European Commissioner for International Partnerships</li> </ul>
09:20 - 09:30	<p><b>Statement by the European Parliament</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Younous Omarjee</b>, Vice President of the European Parliament, European Parliament</li> </ul>
09:30 - 10:10	<p><b>Political Statements - Session 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gerlien Croes</b>, Minister of Kingdom Relations, Education, Youth, Innovation and Sports</li> <li>• <b>John Soliano</b>, Governor of Bonaire</li> <li>• <b>Tyron Boekhoudt</b>, Minister of Health, Environment and Nature of Curaçao</li> <li>• <b>Eviton Heyliger</b>, Commissioner of Saba</li> <li>• <b>Reuben Merkman</b><sup>o</sup>, Commissioner of Sint Eustatius</li> <li>• <b>Drs. Gracita R. Arrindell</b>, Minister Plenipotentiary of Sint Maarten</li> <li>• <b>Eric van der Burg</b>, Minister for Kingdom relations and Effective Government of the Netherlands</li> </ul>
10:10- 10:25	<p><b>Political Statements - Session 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peter Borg</b>, Minister for Fisheries, Hunting, Agriculture, Self-sufficiency, Nature, and Environment</li> <li>• <b>Peter Wilhelm Lund Linde</b>, Chief Adviser on Greenlandic Affairs, Department for the Arctic, North America and Nordic Cooperation of Denmark</li> </ul>
10:25-10:45	Coffee Break

<p><b>10:45 - 11:25</b></p>	<p><b>Political Statements - Session 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Alcide Ponga</b>, President of the Government of New Caledonia</li> <li>● <b>Bruno Peaucellier</b>, Senior Adviser to the President of French Polynesia</li> <li>● <b>Xavier Lédée</b>, President of Saint-Barthélemy</li> <li>● <b>Bernard Briand</b>, President of the Territorial Council of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon</li> <li>● <b>Mikael Quimbert</b>, Prefect of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF)</li> <li>● <b>Munipoésé Muliaka'aka</b>, President of the Territorial Assembly of Wallis and Futuna</li> <li>● <b>Naima Moutchou</b>, Minister of the Overseas France</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:25 - 11:45</b></p>	<p><b>Political Statements - Session 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ary Chalus</b>, President of the Guadeloupe Region and President of the Conference of Presidents of the Outermost Regions</li> <li>● <b>Maria Rojas Gonzales</b>, Head of the Representation to the Anglophone Caribbean and Regional Development Banks</li> <li>● <b>Kinaukovi Sonia Polutele</b>, OCTs' Youth Network</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:45 - 12:00</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Concluding remarks by <b>Jozef Síkela</b>, European Commissioner for International Partnerships</li> <li>● Adoption of Joint Forum Conclusions</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:00 - 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>Signature Ceremony and Official Group Photo</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regional Programme for the Caribbean: Sustainable Management of Caribbean OCTs' Natural Capital</li> <li>● Culture and Creative Industries Programme for the OCTs: OCTs-EU Partnership on Culture</li> <li>● Intraregional Programme for the French Southern and Antarctic Lands and La Reunion: Management of Ungulates and Predators</li> <li>● StormWatch Initiative on Disaster Risk Management: Caribbean OCTs joining the Initiative</li> <li>● BESTLIFE 2030: Supporting Biodiversity in the OCTs</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30 - 14:00</b></p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p><b>14:00 - 19:00</b></p>	<p>Break</p>
<p><b>19:00 - 21:00</b></p> <p><b>Reception hosted by the European Commission for the participants of the Forum, Embassy Suites Hotel, Terrace area</b></p>	

## 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)**