



OCTAssociation

ASSOCIATION OF THE OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND
TERRITORIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ("OCTA")

ASSOCIATION PTOM

LGO ASSOCIATIE

OVERSØISKE LANDE OG TERRITORIER ASSOCIATION

**FINAL DECLARATION
OF
OCTA'S 2008 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

The Undersigned representatives of the Governments of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the EU have met together in the Cayman Islands and having

RECOGNISED

1. - that their generally small size, ecosystems and remote location constrain their economies and accentuate their vulnerability to natural disasters and economic changes.
2. - that as overseas territories, they face unique challenges in accessing multilateral funding to combat threats of an international nature to which they are particularly vulnerable, such as climate change.

CONFIRMED

3. - their desire to maintain a mutually beneficial and unique partnership with the European Union based upon the European citizenship of their population, a shared history and the development of closer co-operation through development aid and co-ordination on policies with respect to environment and trade, including regional integration issues.
4. - their willingness to subscribe to international norms and standards, as well as principles of good governance, accountability and transparency.

5. - their commitment to enhancing the economic and social fabric of their territories, to promoting competitiveness and integrity in their commerce and, lastly to encouraging sustainability of development both generally and institutionally.

NOW RESOLVE THAT

1. - OCT SECRETARIAT

in the context of the difficulties encountered in EDF9, the more active profile of OCT representatives, the increasing level of dialogue between the Commission and OCTs and the need to adapt funding mechanisms that can more efficiently accommodate the needs of smaller programmes, **the OCTs request** that an allocation from the regional EDF funds be made to enable OCTA to establish its own secretariat to facilitate co-operation with the EU; ensure access to funds for smaller projects and generally better to fulfil the provisions of the Overseas Association Decision.

2. - ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In the context of the rich nature of biodiversity of the OCTs and the adverse impact of climate change, **the OCTs request** a special programme should be implemented between the EU and the OCTs to prepare and to protect them from the effects of climate change environmental pressures on their territories and biodiversity. This programme should be funded separately from development aid and involve a partnership between the OCTs and the EU whose object would be to enhance environmental standards in the territories and to assist OCTs to adapt, to preserve the biodiversity and to minimise the effect of climate change through sustainable energy policies.

3. - TRADE

In the context of the fact that the generalisation of their trade preferences to third countries has led to the erosion of their benefits under the Overseas Association Decision, in addition to the increasing intensity of global competition and the consequential increase in economic vulnerability that affect small islands in particular, **the OCTs request** the Commission to contribute to OCTs competitiveness through its development, sanitary and trade policies, by developing specific

partnerships stimulating OCTs goods and services exports in order to achieve regional integration and maintain close links with the EU.

4. - **GREEN PAPER**

in the context of the Commission's very successful effort to publicise the Green Paper and develop a dialogue on the future of the OCT-EU relationship, **the OCTs request** the Commission to take into account the submissions of the OCTs in a quick follow up and to continue the dialogue over the next five years on an equally transparent basis and to continue to actively involve the OCTs in every step to be taken in the revision of the OCT Decision.

5. **EQUALITY OF ACCESS TO OCT PROGRAMMES**

In the context of the very remote locations of some of the OCTs, **the OCTs request** that an inclusive policy should be implemented to ensure that very isolated OCTs such as Saint Helena are not excluded from attending workshops and Forums simply because their travel and subsistence costs are by virtue of their location disproportionately high.

REFERENCE

Signed in Brussels, this 26th day of November, 2008

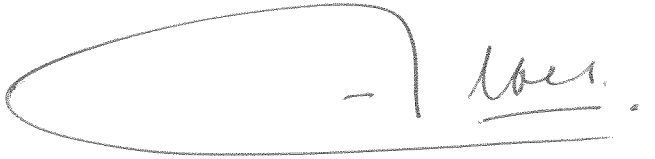
Fait à Las Iles Cayman le 26 novembre 2008

For the Delegation of **Anguilla**:

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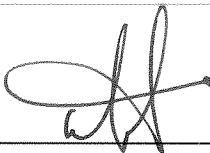
Honourable Victor F BANKS
Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism

For the Delegation of **Aruba**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Croes", written over a horizontal line.

Mr Francisco W CROES
Minister of the Realm for Aruba

For the Delegation of **British Virgin Islands**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dancia Penn", written over a horizontal line.

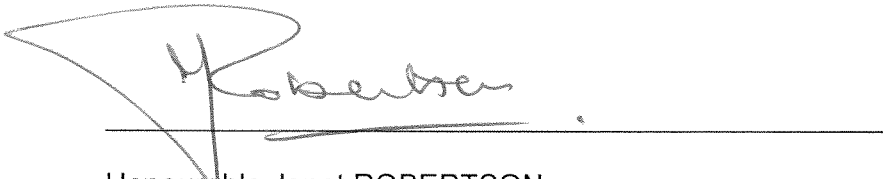
pr Mrs Dancia Penn
Deputy Premier

For the Delegation of the **Cayman Islands**



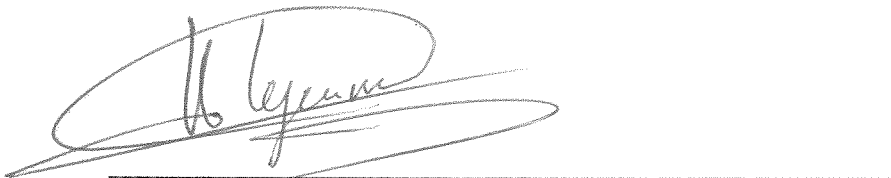
Honourable Alden McLAUGHLIN
Minister for Education

For the Delegation of **Falkland Islands**



Honourable Janet ROBERTSON
Legislative Councillor

Pour le Déléation de **Polynésie française**



Mr. Guy LEJEUNE
Ministre de l'économie et du pacte social

For the Delegation of **Greenland**



Mr Lars VESTERBIRK
Minister Counsellor

Pour le Délégation de **Mayotte**



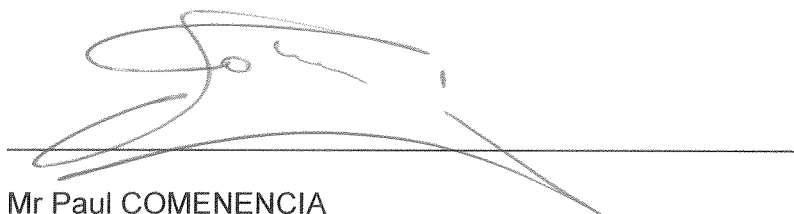
Mr Ahamed ATTOUMANI DOUCHINA
Président du Conseil Général

For the Delegation of **Montserrat**



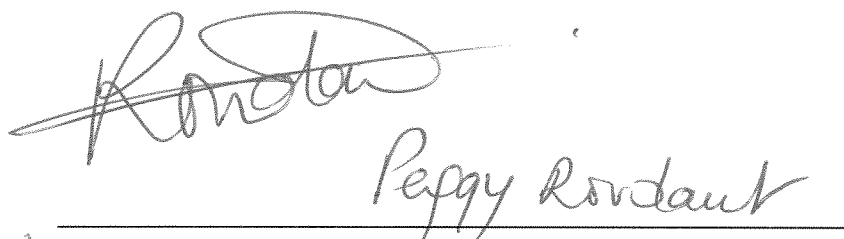
Dr the Hon Lowell LEWIS
Chief Minister

For the Delegation of **The Netherlands Antilles**



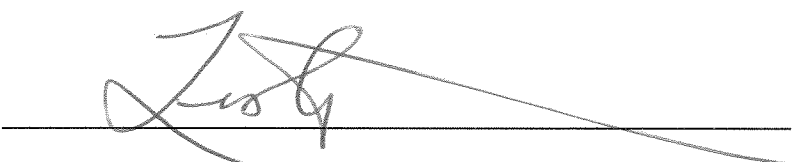
Mr Paul COMENENCIA
Resident Minister The Hague

Pour le Délégation de **Nouvelle Calédonie**


Peppy Rondaut

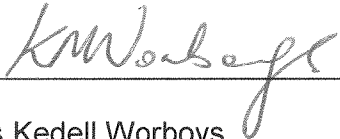
pl Mr Harold MARTIN
Président du Gouvernement de la Nouvelle Calédonie

For the Delegation of **Pitcairn, Henderson Ducie & Oeno Islands**



Mr Leslie JAKUES OBE
Commissioner

For the Delegation of **Saint Helena**



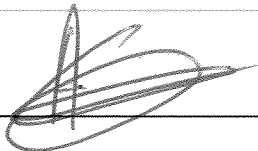
Mrs Kedell Worboys
St Helena Government UK Representative

Pour le Délégation de **Saint Pierre et Miquelon**



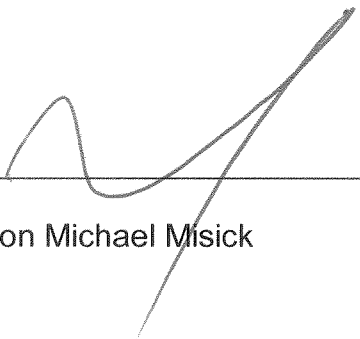
Mme Françoise LETOURNEL
1 re Vice-pr sidente du Conseil Territorial

Pour le Délégation de Terres Australes et Antarctiques
Françaises



Pour le préfet, administrateur supérieur des Terres Australes et Antarctiques
Françaises, Mr Rollon MOUCHEL-BLAISOT, et par délégation Anne
GUILLEMAIN.

For the Delegation of **Turks and Caicos Islands**



Dr the Hon Michael Misick
Premier

For the Delegation of **Wallis et Futuna**



Mr. Robert LAUFOAULU
Sénateur de Wallis et Futuna
