

**19th Overseas Countries and Territories - European Union  
Forum  
Nouméa, 22 November 2022  
Conclusions**

The European Commission, the Heads of Government and Representatives of the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and the Representatives of Denmark, France and the Netherlands, hereinafter referred to as the "Partners", met on the occasion of the 19th OCT-EU Forum held on 22 November 2022 in Nouméa.

The Forum was organised under the auspices of the European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Ms Jutta Urpilainen, and was placed under the patronage of the Government of New Caledonia.

The Partners took note of the political declaration of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association of the European Union (OCTA) by its President and of its adoption by the Ministerial Conference of 21 November 2022.

The following conclusions were adopted:

1. The Partners reiterate the special relationship that exists between the European Union and the OCTs as members of the European family, based on common objectives and principles and shared fundamental values.
2. The Partners underline that the year 2021 has been a landmark for the future of OCT-EU relations, with the adoption of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, a new "Council Decision on the Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the EU, including the relations between the European Union on the one hand and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other" (DOAG), the Neighbourhood and Development Instrument and the post-Cotonou framework. These instruments open the door to a new era in which the 13 OCTs will increasingly work together as neighbours, economic partners and allies.
3. The OCTs acknowledge the EU's continued commitment and the opportunities offered to them by the DOAG, which now brings the 13 OCTs together under a single instrument and a specific budget of EUR 500 million for the period 2021-2027, of which EUR 225 million for Greenland.

4. The DOAG is the cornerstone of the OCT-EU Association integrating political dialogue, financial cooperation and preferential treatment in trade matters, while opening up to new areas of common interest to the OCTs and the EU.
5. The Partners welcome, despite the two years of COVID, the efforts to maintain an ambitious partnership, including flexible financial assistance. The Partners underline the work done, under difficult conditions, to jointly maintain the various dialogue bodies of this partnership. The OCTs are grateful for the solidarity expressed by the EU in the COVID response.
6. The Partners welcome, following a constructive dialogue, the decisions on the new programming 2021-2027 with the adoption so far of 14 multi-annual territorial and regional indicative programmes on common priorities such as the Green Pact, digitalisation, sustainable growth and human development.
7. In this framework, Partners welcome the adoption of 7 territorial action documents allowing for the forthcoming implementation of concrete initiatives. The Partners also appreciate the excellent results obtained in the implementation of the 11th EDF.
8. The Partners acknowledge the new InvestEU instrument, the successor to the various investment facilities managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) under the former Association Decision. They encourage the OCTs to familiarise themselves with the specificities of this new instrument and to identify without delay potential projects that meet their various investment needs.
9. The Partners welcome the launch by the Commission in July 2022 of the OCT Youth Network initiative, which contributes to increasing the links between OCT youth and the EU. This initiative provides a unique opportunity for young people to engage in a learning journey, to learn in depth and first-hand about the EU-OCT partnership and the functioning of the European institutions, and to network with other young people from the OCTs.
10. Taking into account that OCTs' access to Union programmes remains a challenge, partners recognize OCTs' interest in better accessing EU programmes for which Partners encourage training, information and communication efforts and a qualitative analysis in a coordinated way. Partners recognise the added value of such programmes to the populations and businesses in the OCTs.

11. The Partners stress the role of OCTA in facilitating dialogue and coordination between the European Commission, the OCTs and the Member States to which they are linked. Despite the administrative difficulties encountered by the OCTA Secretariat in 2022, the Partners agree to work together to strengthen coordination between the parties concerned in a spirit of constructive dialogue and active collaboration.

12. The Partners appreciate the work done by the Council's so-called Code of Conduct Group in the process of adopting the EU Common List of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions in Tax Matters. They welcome the fact that all OCTs now comply with the criteria of the list and are therefore no longer listed.

13. Due to their geographical and geopolitical location, the Partners recognise that the OCTs are part of the EU's geostrategic agenda, as reflected in the new EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the EU's Arctic Policy, which highlight the potential role of the OCTs in the implementation of these strategies.

14. In this context, the Partners welcome the Commission's decision of 10 May 2022 to open an office in Greenland, with an effective opening foreseen in 2023. This decision reflects the desire of Greenland, the Kingdom of Denmark and the European Commission to deepen and broaden their partnership.

15. The Partners stress the importance of regional and intra-regional integration and cooperation, not only between OCTs, but also between OCTs and their neighbours, ACP countries, EU Outermost Regions or third countries. Given the increased threats of climate change and the current context of a sharp rise in energy prices faced by all OCTs, the partners welcome the operational launch of the Green Overseas programme which aims to enhance their resilience and advance their energy transition. The Partners also note that the new DOAG encourages such wider cooperation, in particular through a dedicated envelope for intra-regional cooperation (EUR 15 million), to work towards common objectives.

16. The Partners reaffirm the importance of relations with the ACP countries and welcome the fact that the initialled Post-Cotonou Agreement envisages for the OCTs an observer role in the Pacific and Caribbean regional protocols.

17. Partners would like to thank New Caledonia for its excellent work as Chair of OCTA, during this extremely challenging period, and to welcome Greenland as the new Chair designate.

18. The Partners undertake to maintain and strengthen the EU-OCT partnership through a constructive, transparent and permanent dialogue.

19. The next OCT-EU Forum is scheduled to take place in Brussels in the second half of 2023.