



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

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European Union and OCTs sign a Joint Declaration in the field of sustainable energy

On Friday, 26th of February, a Joint Declaration on reinforced cooperation in the field of sustainable energy was signed between the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, on behalf of the European Union and President of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association and Prime Minister of Curaçao, Dr. Ben Whiteman, on behalf of the twenty two Overseas Countries and Territories¹ in Brussels. The signature took place in the margins of the annual EU – Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) Forum.

The signature of the Joint Declaration on sustainable energy between the European Union and the OCTs represents a significant political gesture, signalling the importance assigned to sustainable energy by both Overseas Countries and Territories and the Union.

The EU Ambassador to Jamaica, Belize, Cayman Islands, The Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands said: "*The Joint Declaration represents an important step in our cooperation. Its signature strengthens the links between energy policy commitments of Overseas Countries and Territories and the support that could be provided by the Union in the context of the Overseas Association Decision and the resources available via the 11th European Development Funds. Support to the energy sector will usefully complement our ongoing and future bilateral support to The Turks and Caicos Islands in the sectors of business environment (€11.850 million) and education (€14.600 million).*"

14th OCT-EU Forum

14th Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) - EU Forum, hosted by Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica took place on 26 February 2016 in Brussels. Discussions focused on two major topics of mutual interest: the new global agreement on climate change, reached in Paris on the 12th of December 2015, and the OCTs' response efforts and growth and investment opportunities in OCTs, which sits at the heart of OCTs' sustainable development.

The OCT-EU Forum represents the annual highest levels of political dialogue, between the European Commission, Overseas Countries and Territories and Member States to which OCTs are linked. Premiers and elected representatives from the OCTs, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom together with members of the European Parliament, representatives from the Outermost regions and the ACP Secretariat have attended.

Contact

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¹ Greenland, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Wallis and Futuna Islands, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda.