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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

**on the implementation of the financial assistance provided to the Overseas Countries
and Territories under the Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland
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Introduction

The year 2024 marks the fourth year of implementation of the 7-year financing period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 in relations between the European Union (EU) and the 13 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), following the adoption, in October 2021, of the Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland (DOAG)¹.

The partnership between the OCTs and the EU is based on Part IV of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the DOAG, adopted pursuant to Article 203 of the TFEU. According to Article 1 of the DOAG, the purpose of the Decision is to support the sustainable development of the OCTs and to promote the values of the Union in the wider world.

The DOAG ‘merges’ two previous instruments - the former Overseas Association Decision² (OAD) supported by the European Development Fund (EDF), and the Greenland Decision³ funded from the EU budget - in a single instrument with the same source of financing (the EU budget), applying now to all OCTs.

The new Decision provides the basis for programming the 2021-2027 cooperation with the OCTs, which is accompanied by in-depth political and policy dialogue. EUR 500 million are allocated to the DOAG for this period.

Addressing the OCTs’ specific needs and challenges, the cooperation in the 2021-2027 period focuses on actions of mutual interest to the OCTs and the EU. Based on the Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs), priority areas for cooperation under the DOAG are notably the green transition, digitalisation, jobs and growth, and human development, in line with the EU Global Gateway Strategy. All 16 MIPs - 12 territorial MIPs plus the regional MIP for the TAAF⁴, 2 regional MIPs for the Caribbean and Pacific regions and 1 intra-regional MIP – have been in place since the end of 2023 and the remaining actions, notably on the intra-regional envelope, will be adopted before the end of the programming period.⁵

Throughout 2024, a number of actions financed from the 11th European Development Fund under the previous OAD continued to be implemented.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland).

² Council Decision 2013/755/EU on the Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union.

³ Council Decision 2014/137/EU on relations between the EU on the one hand and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other.

⁴ Terres australes et antarctiques françaises/French Southern and Antarctic Territories.

⁵ For further information about OCTs and the adopted MIPs, please consult: [Overseas Countries and Territories - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu).

Consequently, this report covers activities and support provided under both Decisions in 2024:

- **Part I** of this report highlights the progress achieved under the former Overseas Association Decision (OAD) financed under the 11th EDF in 2024;
- **Part II** features advancements in the implementation of the Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland (DOAG), in compliance with Article 86;
- **Part III** emphasises progress achieved in the EU-OCTs dialogue in 2024;
- **Part IV** provides an overview of next steps for 2025 and beyond;
- The **Annex** includes details of the financial assistance provided to the OCTs in 2024.

I. COOPERATION UNDER THE 11th EDF for OCTs in 2024

Financial Resources under the 11th EDF for OCTs (former Overseas Association Decision: OAD)

The 11th EDF resources available to the OCTs in the period 2014-2020 were allocated as follows, in line with Annex 2 of the former Overseas Association Decision (OAD):

- EUR 229.5 million for territorial (bilateral) cooperation;
- EUR 100 million for regional and “all OCT” cooperation;
- EUR 21.5 million to finance humanitarian and emergency assistance;
- EUR 5 million to finance interest subsidies and technical assistance linked to the OCT Investment Facility;
- EUR 8.5 million for studies and technical assistance.

Under the 11th EDF, 16 OCTs were eligible for a territorial allocation. In addition to three regional programmes, a single thematic ‘all-OCTs’ programme (Green Overseas, ongoing) fosters inter-OCT cooperation.

Former UK OCTs remain eligible for and benefit from the EDF funds until the closure of all ongoing programmes.

Situation in 2024

a) Territorial cooperation

- **Caribbean region**

Aruba completed the implementation of its programme on higher education with the roll out of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum of the University and the termination of the infrastructure work for the physical set-up of the new faculty and laboratories, which were inaugurated in May 2024.

In **Bonaire**, the budget support programme on youth finished with the adoption of the Youth Policy, and the final payments were made in December 2024. Thanks to the programme, 68% of youth workers were duly qualified (senior secondary vocation education).

In **Sint Maarten**, the work on tender dossiers for the implementation of an action in the water and sanitation sector proved to be challenging. Therefore, a rider to the Decision was signed

before the end of 2024, to enable a change in the implementation modality, through a contribution agreement with the pillar assessed operator UNOPS. Works should start in 2025.

In **Curaçao**, the programme for enhancing the island's resilience also saw further preparatory work on the tender dossier. The contract is expected to be signed early 2025.

- **Pacific region**

For **Wallis and Futuna**, the Commission validated the results of a feasibility study in early 2024, presenting an alternative technical solution to build the Leava wharf on Futuna. On that basis, the territory was granted an extension of the implementation period of the Financing Agreement by twenty-four months, until August 2026. The project is directly implemented by the territory, in collaboration with the French authorities.

- b) Regional cooperation**

- **Pacific**

In the Pacific, the regional cooperation programme PROTEGE (Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management, EUR 36 million), that focused on the fight against climate change and ecosystem degradation, came to its end. The programme successfully promoted sustainable and climate-resilient economic development (by focusing on enhancing biodiversity and renewable natural resources), as well as best agricultural and fisheries practices among the Pacific OCTs.

- **Caribbean**

In the Caribbean, the RESEMBID Programme (Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity, EUR 42.67 million, out of which EUR 2.67 million from the B-envelope as COVID-19 support) focuses on resilience building, sustainable energy and marine biodiversity. Thanks to RESEMBID, the OCTs have further strengthened their crisis and disaster management capabilities, successfully implemented energy efficiency and energy saving measures, as well as enhanced their legislative and institutional capacities in managing marine biodiversity. In 2024, the implementation continued at an accelerated pace, through 47 grant projects covering all 12 beneficiary territories (by the end of 2024, 40 projects were under implementation and 7 projects ended). The programme is deemed to finalise implementation in October 2025.

- **Indian Ocean**

The RECI programme (Restoration of Islands Ecosystems in the Indian Ocean, EUR 4 million) continued in 2024 until its closure in 4 December. The programme has recorded a number of important achievements, such as enhanced biosecurity, ecological restoration activities, and the eradication of invasive species on selected islands of the TAAF. 70% of the world's yellow-billed albatross population were protected thanks to the programme. In terms of communication, a documentary film, numerous press articles and the implementation of knowledge-sharing activities can be highlighted.

- **The all-OCTs thematic programme Green Overseas – GO**

The Green Overseas – GO programme with a budget EUR 17.8 million encompasses both the EU and British OCTs. The programme started in 2019 and its implementation runs until 31 December 2025. It focuses on accelerating energy transition and advancing climate resilience, including via support to the roll-out of renewable energy projects. In 2024, the demand-driven GO Facility (launched late 2023) took off swiftly, helping the different OCTs to prepare investment projects in the aboved-mentioned areas. As a result, a total of 34 individual projects were selected for various studies or technical assistance, supporting

actions directly related to climate action. The GO programme also triggered the organisation of a Climate Finance Forum held in Brussels from 7 to 11 October 2024. The Forum brought together over 120 participants from the OCTs to discuss themes, such as accessing multilateral and bilateral funds, unlocking private finance, creating an enabling environment, and building financial resilience. In this framework, the Forum provided a broader regional perspective, anchoring the EU OCTs within their geographies and relevant EU's cooperation initiatives in the Caribbean, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic, and the Arctic. Contributions from representatives of EU Member States (Denmark, France, and the Netherlands) and the UK, as well as of the EU and British OCTs' Associations (OCTA and UKOTA) further reinforced the significance of the event. Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), such as Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the World Bank - and relevant UN agencies - participated alongside commercial investors.

c) Technical assistance and institutional support

Initially funded (EUR 560 000) under the Technical Cooperation Facility, the Overseas Countries and Territories' Youth Network (the OCT-YN) was launched in 2022. A first group of 25 young people (aged 20-28) from 10 different OCTs were selected to embark on a one-year learning path, with a view to explore more about the EU-OCTs partnership and the functioning of the European Institutions, while networking with EU experts and policymakers, and like-minded young people from other OCTs.

A rider to the implementation contract was signed in 2024 (under the DOAG Support Measures), to allow for a topping-up of the budget and an extension of the OCT-YN programme until July 2025. The second cohort successfully finished their mandate and a new cohort of 25 young people was selected with members from 13 OCTs.

In the frame of their one-year mandate, the members of the OCT-YN (third cohort) have had the opportunity to make a week-long Study Visit to Brussels in November 2024, attend various webinars and online meetings, as well as participate in OCTs- and/or youth-related events on topics of interest. In addition, some alumni and members of the OCT-YN contributed to the OCTs-EU Forum in February 2024 and to the Green Overseas Climate Finance Forum in October 2024. Others are involved in the amplification of the ongoing EU-OCTs Communication Campaign.

d) European Investment Bank (EIB)

The 11th EDF OCT Investment Facility (endowment of EUR 48.5 million) - managed by the EIB under the former 2013 OAD Decision - provided funding for operations in the OCTs. The EIB complemented the Facility's funding with its own resources (up to EUR 100 million). The Facility ceased to exist under the DOAG and operations were concluded in 2020 and 2021. The cumulative net reflows stemming from the OCT Investment Facility are added as annual top-ups to the Non-Allocated Fund under the DOAG. Until 2027, reflows of around EUR 35 million are expected, out of which around EUR 21 million were received by the end of 2024.

The OCTs are currently eligible for the InvestEU Fund, which supports private and public investments in four policy areas: sustainable infrastructure; research, innovation and digitisation; small and medium-sized businesses; and social investment and skills. It is implemented by international and/or national financing institutions (such as the EIB, InvestNL, BPI France and Nordic Investment Bank).

II. COOPERATION UNDER THE NEW OCT DECISION (DOAG) IN 2024

Financial Resources under the DOAG

The EUR 500 million available to the OCTs for the period 2021-2027 are split into the following allocations, based on Annex 1 of the Decision:

- EUR 164 million for the territorial (bilateral) allocations to the OCTs other than Greenland;
- EUR 225 million for the territorial (bilateral) allocation to Greenland;
- EUR 76 million for regional cooperation, of which EUR 15 million for intra-regional cooperation of the OCTs with their non-OCT neighbours⁶;
- EUR 22 million for studies and technical assistance measures;
- EUR 13 million to a Non-Allocated Fund for unforeseen circumstances, new needs or emerging challenges and new international initiatives and priorities.⁷

The funds shall not be committed after 31 December 2027, unless the Council unanimously decides otherwise on a proposal from the Commission⁸.

Twelve (out of thirteen) OCTs are eligible for a bilateral allocation under the DOAG, defined according to criteria established in the Decision. The TAAF, which is the only uninhabited OCT, are considered as a region for the purpose of eligibility for financing, as per Article 84(1) DOAG, thus benefitting from a dedicated regional programme instead of a bilateral allocation.

Three regional programmes for the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Oceans, respectively, seek to foster cooperation among OCTs of the same region sharing similar challenges and priorities. Actions financed under the regional allocations support the elaboration and implementation of comprehensive regional programmes and projects addressing these challenges. A major novelty of the DOAG is **the intra-regional envelope**, which sets aside funds to encourage cooperation between the OCTs and their neighbouring African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and/or other third countries, as well as the Outermost Regions of the EU.

Situation in 2024

a) Territorial cooperation

One Multiannual Action Programme was adopted in November 2024: Sustainable Tourism for Wallis and Futuna - EUR 20.4 million, fully aligned with Green Deal priorities, as well as with the Digital Age and Jobs and Growth agendas.

With this action, the total amount of EUR 352.45 million were mobilised until the end of 2024, i.e. >70% of the total DOAG envelope of EUR 500 million. To be noted that Green Deal related topics are reflected in 14 of the 16 MIPs adopted. This means that around 47% of

⁶ Greenland and Saint Pierre and Miquelon are eligible only for intra-regional operations.

⁷ Cumulative net reflows stemming from the now ceased OCT Investment Facility managed by the EIB are added as annual top-ups to the Non-Allocated Fund.

⁸ Unused reflows by the end of the current programming period will constitute contributions to the next OCTs' financial instrument.

the overall DOAG resources have been designated for Green Deal cooperation (e.g. in renewable energy, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, sustainable agriculture, wastewater management and green growth).

Regarding the implementation in the **Pacific**, French Polynesia saw the first disbursement (fixed tranche) of EUR 6 million for its action on sustainable water management. Thanks to the DOAG support, the number of municipalities distributing drinking water to their citizens increased from 9 to 12. New Caledonia received the first payment (fixed tranche) of EUR 6 million for its budget support programme on energy transition. As a response to the crisis that hit New Caledonia in May 2024, EUR 1 million have been added as a top-up to the existing budget support programme. The payment will be executed in 2025, together with the second fixed annual tranche of EUR 6 million (EUR 7 million in total).

In the **Caribbean**, a Financing Agreement was signed with Bonaire in 2024 on water management and sanitation (EUR 4.6 million). Sint-Eustatius saw a first disbursement (fixed tranche) of EUR 950 000 for its programme on sustainable agriculture, including wastewater management and the Blue Circle Project aimed at rerouting rainwater. Saint Barthélemy obtained the second disbursement (fixed tranche) of EUR 875 000 for its programme on disaster risk management where a project on geographical data collection was successfully conducted, as well as two training sessions for the crisis management staff. In Saba, the EU supports the Energy Policy 2020-2025, which is set to increase the share of renewable energy to 60%. This will be achieved through, among others, the construction of additional renewable energy infrastructure (including a new solar park). All necessary studies for the construction of the solar park were finalised by the end of 2024. The launch of the call for tenders is expected in 2025. In Aruba, the budget support programme on e-government of EUR 14.2 million was decided at the end of 2023, and the Financing Agreement signed in February 2024. With the start of the implementation, the payment of EUR 5.2 million (first tranche) will be executed in 2025.

Cooperation with **Saint Pierre et Miquelon** is moving on at cruise speed, with the implementation of its budget support programme on sustainable tourism. The year 2024 saw the acceleration of the implementation of numerous sectorial policies in areas, such as green transition, digitalisation, sustainable tourism, and support to the inclusion of young people and individuals with disabilities. A second disbursement of EUR 6.85 million was made.

In **Greenland**, the EU-budget support to education, via the education programme for 2024-2025, focuses on re- and up-skilling, improved curricula for vocational education, and student wellbeing, based on the new Greenlandic Strategy for Education. The Financing Agreement was signed in June 2024, followed by the disbursement of the first fixed tranche of EUR 26.25 million. Implementation is now underway.

In the 2021-2027 period, cooperation between the EU and Greenland was extended, for the first time, beyond education with the development of the Green Growth programme focusing on sustainable energy, critical raw materials (CRM), environment, research and tourism. The MIP was adopted in 2023, with an amount of EUR 22.5 million and the implementation of the budget support component (EUR 15 million) started in September 2024. The remaining funds (EUR 7.5 million) are foreseen to be implemented with the help of implementing partners. In line with the EU Global Gateway Strategy, the Green Growth programme is expected to create a stronger foothold for the EU in Greenland to advance on the green transition. It also finances the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sustainable Raw Materials Value Chains signed with Greenland in November 2023.

EU-Greenland relations and policy dialogue in 2024

2024 marked an exceptional year in the EU-Greenland relationship, where our partnership reached new heights. Beyond extending our cooperation to areas under the Green Growth programme, several key milestones have demonstrated the EU's commitment to strengthening our partnership with the territory. The inauguration of the European Commission Office in Nuuk and the endorsement of the Roadmap under the existing MoU by the Commission President Von der Leyen during her visit to Greenland in March, as well as Commissioner Urpilainen's visit in September are just a few examples.

Three policy dialogues with Greenland were held in 2024 (in January, June and December) - extending the policy spectrum of our engagement to digital transformation and connectivity - along with the first-ever EU-Greenland Business Mission in Nuuk from 30 September to 4 October. It gathered over 80 participants, including policymakers, representatives of the Government, EU financial institutions (e.g., the EIB), as well as EU and local companies, and focused on innovation and investment in sustainable raw materials and renewable energy. This business mission - a deliverable under the joint Roadmap for the implementation of the MoU on Sustainable Raw Materials Value Chains - served as a tangible demonstration of the EU's dedication to deepening collaboration with Greenland and facilitating private sector investment.

The EU Office in Nuuk is fully operational. It facilitates the management of the substantial EU support to Greenland (EUR 225 million under the DOAG bilateral envelope) and contributes to deepening our partnership, including through policy dialogue. Furthermore, the Office provides information and promotes EU private and public investment in Greenland in cooperation with the relevant Commission services and other partners, including the European Investment Bank, in consideration of applicable EU financial instruments and in support of Global Gateway priorities.

b) Regional cooperation

Regarding regional envelopes, two Multi-annual Action Plans were approved in November 2024:

- Sustainable Management of the Caribbean OCTs' Natural Capital – EUR 21 million
- Greening and Blueing Food Systems in the Pacific OCTs – EUR 36 million

For both regional programmes, the corresponding Financing Agreements are expected to be signed in 2025, to start the implementation before the end of the year. They tackle priorities common to the Caribbean and Pacific OCTs, such as food security and biodiversity. In line with the EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda (GGIA), the regional programme for the Caribbean has identified the fight against sargassum algae as one of its key priorities and will foster public-private collaboration to turn this challenge into economic opportunities.

Work on the regional action for the TAAF continued in 2024, and the MARIO (*Préservation de écosystèmes marins et gestion durable des Ressources naturelles du sud-ouest de l'Océan Indien*, EUR 4 million) implementation agreement was signed with AFD in December 2024. It focuses on preserving the biodiversity and ecological functions of the marine environments of the TAAF and the South West Indian Ocean.

In addition, the DOAG sets aside dedicated resources for intra-regional cooperation to enhance the regional integration of the OCTs in their respective regions and to address global challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity, as well as to pursue sustainable development with enhanced connectivity. An envelope of EUR 15 million is foreseen for this purpose, and the corresponding MIP was adopted in November 2023.

Exchanges with the OCTs in each region on the programming of these resources continued in 2024, and two actions should be presented in 2025, for the TAAF and for Greenland. For the TAAF, the GOPI project (Management of Ungulates and Introduced Predators in the TAAF and Réunion national park) will address challenges in biodiversity protection. The proposal received for Greenland aims to promote the sustainable inclusion of protected areas - such as UNESCO sites - as an asset for the tourism sector through the establishment of micro-infrastructure. Turning to the Caribbean, the OCTs collectively chose digital connectivity (including submarine cables) and cyber security for their intra-regional programme, and work has started on the preparation of a feasibility study covering the wider Caribbean region and related Global Gateway initiatives.

c) Technical assistance and institutional support

The year 2024 saw the continued mobilisation of technical assistance, in particular to support OCTs' authorities in the formulation process of new actions for the Caribbean and Pacific regional programmes and for the Wallis and Futuna territorial programme. Following a request by the OCTs to promote enhanced OCTs participation in horizontal EU programmes like Horizon Europe, BESTLIFE2030, ERASMUS+, Connecting Europe Facility, etc., the Commission concluded a contract with a specialised service provider. The experts will develop and roll out dedicated training sessions during 2025.

In terms of communication, the OCTs-EU Communication Campaign with the tagline 'Partners in Change' was launched in early 2024. The campaign, mainly implemented through social media, targets young people in the OCTs, as well as local decision makers. It highlights the positive impact of the EU-OCTs partnership and showcases local projects implemented in the OCTs under the Global Gateway Strategy. The first successful territorial campaigns took place in Greenland and in French Polynesia.

Additionally, the EU supported the Overseas Countries and Territories' Association (OCTA) through technical assistance in the organisation of the institutional dialogue with the EU and the OCTA Ministerial Conference, held in the margins of the OCTs-EU Forum in February 2024 in Brussels. As detailed below, serious administrative and institutional weaknesses within OCTA continued to hamper a more effective and fluent OCTs-EU dialogue throughout the year.

The Overseas Countries and Territories' Association (OCTA)

The Commission has been a long-time and strong supporter of the Overseas Countries and Territories' Association (OCTA), recognising its important role in the implementation of the EU-OCTs partnership. As of 2018, switching from the former technical assistance support, the Commission started financing the running costs of the OCTA Secretariat through grant contracts, as requested by the Association.

OCTA is based in Brussels under the legal form of a private entity under the Belgian law (a non-profit organisation). Since 2020, the Association has been facing increasing internal administrative difficulties culminating in the freezing of its bank account in 2022, that was formally unblocked only in May 2023. As a result, the OCTA Secretariat was paralysed for large parts of 2022 and 2023, and the conditions for signing new grants were not met.

In 2023 and 2024, the grant contracts for 2020 and 2021 were audited by the Commission through an external auditor and the preliminary findings transmitted to OCTA. For the 2022 grant, an extensive expenditure verification report was carried out by the Commission.

The Commission continued regular dialogue with OCTA and the OCTs on this matter, including at the October 2024 Tripartite Meeting, and encouraged OCTA to take the

necessary measures to strengthen its internal control systems and to reinforce its administrative capacity and governance practices. During the annual OCTA Ministerial Conference, held in the margins of the 2024 OCTs-EU Forum, members adopted a strategic update of the Association's 'OCTA towards a new strategic future' vision, which revolves around political and strategic dialogue, member engagement, communication and transparency, and lastly, cooperation in strategic areas.

III. INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE IN 2024

Three instances of dialogue are defined in the DOAG (Article 14):

OCTs-EU Forum

The annual Forum is the highest political instance of the OCTs-EU dialogue. The latest edition was initially planned for the last quarter of 2023 but finally postponed to February 2024. It was held in Brussels, with Greenland holding the rotating OCTA Chair. The Forum enjoyed high-level participation and injected a new momentum into the OCTs-EU partnership. It confirmed the importance of the territories for the EU's geostrategic agenda and underlined that the OCTs belong to the European family, with shared values and ambitions. Discussions during the Forum demonstrated the pertinence of the EU Global Gateway Strategy also for the OCTs, and reaffirmed the need for a strong and effective OCTA to push forward the partnership. Furthermore, the necessity to increase the visibility of the OCTs-EU relations was highlighted and the continued shared commitment to meaningful youth engagement reaffirmed. During the OCTA Ministerial Conference, members appointed Aruba as new Chair of the Association. At this occasion, Aruba also took over the Presidency of the OCTA Executive Committee.

Trilateral consultations/tripartite meetings

In 2024, three Tripartite Meetings between the Commission (Chair), the OCTs' representatives and the Member States to which OCTs are linked, were organised in Brussels (in January, June, and October, all in hybrid format). They offered a platform for political and policy dialogue to exchange relevant information, reflect on priority topics of common interest and monitor progress in the implementation of the association Decision (DOAG). The January Tripartite Meeting focused on the agenda and organisation of the 2024 OCTs-EU Forum and presented an opportunity to collectively work on ideas on how to shape the role of the OCTs in the Global Gateway Strategy. Other issues discussed during the 2024 Tripartite Meetings were the institutional situation of OCTA, including the state of play of the audit and expenditure verification processes of the 2020-2022 grants. Further agenda items concerned the state of preparation and way forward on the implementation of the DOAG envelope for intra-regional cooperation, the all-OCTs communication campaign, the collaboration with the OCT-YN and a presentation of the TAIEX instrument. Finally, the Tripartite format allowed participants to prepare and follow-up on the Green Overseas Climate Finance Forum (Brussels, October 2024), to discuss with the territories the Non-Allocated Fund of the DAOG and its potential use, and to inform about the use of the DOAG envelope for studies and technical assistance.

Ad-hoc Partnership Working Parties (PWP)

PWP are demand driven and no meetings were organised in 2024.

IV. LOOKING AHEAD

The implementation of outstanding activities under the former OAD Decision (the 11th EDF), notably the thematic programme Green Overseas, and the Caribbean regional programme RESEMBID will continue until their closure, foreseen in 2025. In addition, the last 11th EDF territorial programmes, for Sint Maarten (support to water management and sanitation) and Curaçao (building resilient and sustainable communities) are expected to start their implementation in 2025.

The programming of the DOAG allocations is finalised, except for the Non-Allocated Fund, of which only EUR 1 million has been committed so far, in response to the crisis that occurred in 2024 in New Caledonia (top-up to the existing budget support, to be disbursed in 2025). Related discussions will continue, including on further EU assistance to the reconstruction efforts in New Caledonia, an all-OCTs programme supporting culture, creative industries and sustainable tourism, and on initiatives in alignment with the Global Gateway ambitions (possibly combined with regional/intra-regional allocations). The implementation under the DOAG is expected to gain its momentum in 2025 bringing first results in the strategic sectors of our engagement, especially within territorial envelopes.

Work will continue on the preparation of actions under the regional/intra-regional MIPs in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, the Atlantic and Arctic regions. The objective is to promote win-win partnerships between the OCTs as well as - and where relevant - between the OCTs and their neighbouring countries and territories, including ACP and non-ACP states, and Outermost Regions, to strengthen the OCTs' role in relevant EU regional strategies in alignment with the priorities of the Global Gateway. As a concrete example, cooperation with the EU Outermost Regions in the Caribbean region will be promoted in order to pool efforts and funding for digital connectivity, particularly with regard to submarine cables and cybersecurity issues.

Building on the momentum generated in the EU-Greenland relations in 2024, the efforts to further upgrade the partnership will continue in 2025. The focus will shift towards delivering first concrete results and translating ambitions into tangible outcomes, including via the implementation of the Green Growth programme and the Roadmap under the existing MoU on Sustainable Raw Materials Value Chains signed between the parties in late 2023. Another related key priority is to further enhance the EU-Greenland economic relations, including through the stronger involvement of the private sector in key strategic areas: minerals, renewable energy and digital. The European Commission Office in Nuuk will continue its successful operation and further intensify exchanges and dialogue on shared priorities with local stakeholders in an evolving international context.

A communication campaign launched in early 2024 will continue in 2025 to further enhance awareness and create a positive perception about the OCTs-EU partnership among the public. This initiative will be complemented by a dedicated training to foster the capacities in the OCTs for their increased participation in EU horizontal programmes.

The Commission will also pursue discussions with OCTA on the follow-up of the audits and expenditure verification of the 2020, 2021 and 2022 grants. In parallel, dedicated technical assistance schemes to OCTA will be put in place, to enhance capacities for political and policy dialogue with the EU and to support OCTA in the management of horizontal issues.

The next OCTs-EU Forum, foreseen in Aruba in 2025, will give the opportunity to take stock of the implementation of financial cooperation under the DOAG, to discuss themes of common interest, e.g., regional integration, ocean governance, investment agendas under the umbrella of the Global Gateway, and to guide the EU-OCTs partnership strategically.