



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

ASSOCIATION PTOM

LGO ASSOCIATIE

OVERSØISKE LANDE OG TERRITORIERS ASSOCIATION

THIRD SUMMIT OF OCT ENERGY MINISTERS

Brussels, 6th and 7th December 2017

COMMON CONCLUSIONS

The Energy Ministers, Council Members and Representatives of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union (OCT), having met in Brussels, Belgium on the 6th and the 7th of December 2017 on the occasion of the third Summit of OCT Energy Ministers, with the support of the European Commission,

Having actively discussed with Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, representatives of the private sector and experts on islands’ energy systems, networks of European islands at political and technical levels, and other stakeholders on the most appropriate actions in support of the transition towards a sustainable energy future;

Considering the Sustainable Energy Roadmap for OCTs signed at the first Summit of OCTs Energy Ministers in Brussels on the 17th of June 2016, which has identified priority areas, strategies and actions to be implemented in the field of sustainable energy;

Considering the joint declaration between the OCTs and the European Union on reinforced cooperation in the field of sustainable energy, signed on 26 February 2016 during the OCTA Ministerial Conference in Brussels;

Considering that discussions allowed for a more in-depth examination of the opportunities open to OCTs in the field of Marine Energy and best practices to promote the OCTs as test-beds for pilot innovations;

Having actively discussed the participation or association of OCTs in relevant initiatives such as the ‘Smart Island Initiative’ and the ‘Clean Energy for EU Islands’ launched by the European Commission;

Recalling that the Summary Sheet of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Thematic Programme for all OCTs was endorsed by OCTA as Regional Authorising Officer (RAO) in June 2016 and by European Commissioner Mimica in charge of International cooperation and Development in August 2016;

Have agreed to,

Common Conclusions of the Third Summit of OCT Energy Ministers

OCTs as test-beds for pilot innovations

- Welcome the Desk Study on Marine Energy for Europe's OCTs produced in July 2017 and presented at the technical workshop on the 6th of December 2017 in the margin of the third Summit of OCT Energy Ministers, and thank the support of the EU Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative;
- Explore further cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and take advantage of the tools, capacity building activities and workshops, and any other support they can offer to islands in the field of Sustainable Energy;
- Explore the opportunities to create a group composed of representatives from the European Commission, the private sector and OCTA to explore concrete opportunities for OCTs to be used as testing and early roll-out test grounds of infrastructures and management systems for demonstration project and capacity buildings in the OCTs;
- Acknowledge the need for creating a support fund to improve the bankability of Sustainable Energy projects, or make use of existing fund such as the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) and other existing Funds;
- Consider the inclusion of environmental consideration during the deployment and use of Sustainable Energy technologies in OCTs.

Accelerating the clean energy transition on Europe's islands

- Welcome the recent efforts of the European Commission for further supporting the decarbonisation of the EU Islands and confirm their strong interest for the 'Clean Energy for EU Islands' initiative;
- Welcome the signature of the Political Declaration on 'Clean Energy for EU Islands' signed in Malta on 18 May 2017 by the European Commission and 14 EU Member States including France and Denmark, and encourage the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to further consider their support and participation in the 'Clean Energy for EU Islands' initiative;
- Acknowledge the need for early involvement of OCTs in the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative and their participation in knowledge sharing activities;
- Explore the opportunities for further cooperation with the Islands Commission of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), in particular within the framework of the 'Clean Energy for EU Islands' initiative and to improve the cooperation between Research centers based in the OCTs and other EU Islands;
- Explore the opportunities for further cooperation with the 'Smart Islands initiative' in order to exchange best practices and benefit from capacity building activities between the OCTs and other EU Islands, including by involving the Innovation Managers from the OCTs, as previously identified in the framework of the Territorial Strategies for Innovation (TSI) Project;

Common Conclusions of the Third Summit of OCT Energy Ministers

11th EDF support to renewable energy in the OCTs

- Recognize that the Executive Committee of OCTA is doing its utmost to implement the commitment made by the partners at the 15th OCT-EU Forum on the 24th of February 2017, to 'make all necessary efforts to make swift progress to conclude the programming of the 11th EDF thematic programme benefitting all OCTs by the end of 2017, and to successfully conclude the programming of the 11th EDF regional allocations by the end of 2017, giving particular attention to the creation of synergies among the four regional programmes and with other programmes in the region';
- Confirm the objective to design the 11th EDF thematic programme in a manner that allows all OCTs to benefit from the activities of the programme under the two components;
- Acknowledge the on-going work of the technical assistance to OCTA for drafting the EU Response Strategy for the 11th EDF thematic programme, and recognize the need for further discussion among OCTs and between OCTA and the European Commission prior to submission to Quality Support Group (QSG) and the 16th OCT-EU Forum;
- Recognize the need to further take into account the conclusions of recent technical workshops, in particular identified topics of common interest, as an input to the draft EU Response Strategy for the 11th EDF thematic programme;
- Confirm the objective to design the 11th EDF thematic programme in a manner that promotes cooperation rather than competition among OCTs, therefore grant as disbursement modalities is not the preferred approach;
- Restrict the eligibility of activities under the 11th EDF thematic programme to OCT territorial governments and their utilities, with the possibility for them to sub-contract the implementation;
- Confirm the objective to design the 11th EDF thematic programme with a view to initiate sustainable and strategic long term activities which contribute to the sustainable development of the OCTs;
- Recognize a need for complementarity, knowledge sharing, capacity building and soft measures to be core elements of the 11th EDF thematic programme;
- Recall that OCTs are on the frontline of climate change and already experiencing challenging impacts, with forecasts suggesting that these effects are not only going to increase in number, but also grow in magnitude, and therefore confirm the paramount importance of urgent assessments and strategies for disaster risk reduction in the OCTs and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM);
- Focus on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy as sub-sectors of concentration under the 11th EDF thematic programme, aiming to gain enhanced capacities to address and increase their resilience to the effects of Climate Change;