



PRESS KIT

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ADHÉSION DE LA GUADELOUPE À L'OECO

ORGANISATION DES ÉTATS DE LA CARAÏBE ORIENTALE
ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES*

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EVENT IN A FEW WORDS ...

1.1 Membership of Guadeloupe to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): a historical event

In a globalized economy, the triple affiliation (European - French - Caribbean) of Guadeloupe is a real opportunity for the development of our archipelago.

Associate Member of the Association of Caribbean States since 2014, the Guadeloupe Region continues its integration within its natural watershed by joining the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in the (OECS).

Education, training, promotion of excellence in the health system, energy independence, reasoned valuation of our natural heritage and biodiversity, capacity building in our territories to respond to environmental challenges.

The effective implementation of these structural projects must be based on decentralized cooperation, agile and pragmatic. Regional cooperation is not an accessory. It is inseparable from political action.

Our people are secured in nature. Mutual aid has also been at the heart of our societies and it is in this sense that we must think and act. The Guadeloupe share a strong community of interest with the OECS Member States (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States of), which includes, in one instance, our nearest neighbours. Membership of Guadeloupe in associate membership is likely to strengthen its position in its regional basin alongside Martinique, already an associate member since 2015.

The negotiation process with the OECS comes to an end. The Guadeloupe wishes to contribute to the shared vision in which promoting green and blue economy is put forward to make space Lesser Antilles global benchmark for sustainable territories.

This ambition was legally supported by the French law through the General Code of Local Authorities (Article L. 4433-4-5 CGCT).

It stipulates that "the French regions of the Caribbean who wish have the opportunity to join regional organisations in their geographical area having requested the authorities of the Republic about it."

The Regional Council of Guadeloupe, plenary meeting 7 September 2018, adopted a resolution mandating its President to enter the authorities of the French Republic in the negotiations for the accession of Guadeloupe to the Organisation States Eastern Caribbean (OECS) as an associate member.

This agreement will be signed in Guadeloupe on the occasion of a special meeting of Heads of Government of the OECS to be held Thursday, March 14, 2019, followed by a special meeting of the OECS Authority, Friday, March 15 2019.

EVENT IN A FEW WORDS ...

1.2 official integration days Program of Guadeloupe in the OECS

The integration of Guadeloupe in the OECS as an associate member will take place in several highlights.



→ **First step: Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 16:00**
the amphitheater Gerty Archimede, Camp Jacob St. Claude
Signing of the accession agreement by the President of the Guadeloupe Region and the President of the High Authority of the OECS, recognizing the Guadeloupe as a full member.

Press: interviews with the President and the President of Region
OECS only



→ **Second step: Friday, March 15, 2019 at 12:30**
Memorial to act in Pointe-à-Pitre
Official participation of Guadeloupe at its first extraordinary meeting of the Authority of the OECS with other member countries.

Press: Interviews representatives (press conference)



→ **Third step : Friday, March 15, 2019 at 15:00**
the Mémorial amphitheater Campus Fouillole, Pointe-à-Pitre
Meeting with the public at Fouillole campus in the presence of Heads of Government of member states of the OECS. Objective: To understand the interest membership of Guadeloupe in the OECS

2- The OECS - UNITED STATES OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN

2.1 The OECS - an international organisation with a regional focus

Like the European countries, the smaller Caribbean islands have chosen to come together within a single regional organisation. Their goal was better to face together the challenges that should fall, having just gained independence from the British Kingdom.

The OECS was born in June 1981, when 7 States decide to join forces with the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre: Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The OECS has been created with a view to economic, social and environmental development for each of the member countries on the one hand, and to the Caribbean region more broadly.



Following its creation in 1981, the organisation has expanded by hosting the British Virgin Islands in 1984 and in 1995. Eel Martinique was the 10th country to join the organisation February 4, 2015, as associate member.

Today Guadeloupe prepares to formally join the OECS as an associate member of the organisation with the aim to understand and actively participate in economic, social, financial and environmental challenges of the Eastern Caribbean.

In addition, the cooperation within the OECS is facilitated by the common history that these populations, their geographical proximity, cultural similarities, their vulnerability to natural hazards themselves and through home exchanges, commercial, sporting and cultural between the islands. Just as the European Union, the construction of the OECS is an evolutionary process.

The organisation continues 5 missions :



Encourager la coopération entre les pays membres .



Permettre aux petits États et territoires insulaires de se défendre mutuellement et de développer la solidarité entre eux .



Apporter une assistance aux membres en matière de respect de leurs obligations et responsabilités vis-à-vis de la communauté internationale .



Accompagner les pays membres dans le processus d'harmonisation de leur politique étrangère .



Faciliter l'intégration économique entre les pays membres.

2- The OECS - ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

2.2 Members OECS countries

The OECS has 10 Member States: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, Martinique

Including 3 associate members as non-independent territories: British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, part of countries and territories overseas British and Martinique, French department of overseas territories.

Chairman of the OECS: Dr. Ralph Gonsalves,
Prime Minister of Saint - Vincent - and - the -
Grenadines

Director General of the OECS Dr. Didacus Jules

Anguilla



Antigua-et-Barbuda



Îles Vierges britanniques



Dominique



Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis



Grenade



Saint-Vincent-et-les-Grenadines



Martinique



Montserrat



Sainte-Lucie



Being an associate member of the OECS:

Regarding the implications of the OECS associate membership vary the Treaty states that "the nature and extent of the rights and obligations of Associate Members shall be determined by the Authority of the OECS." There is therefore no such thing as a uniform status of Associate Member State and the modalities of participation of these new associate members are appointed by the territories.

This flexibility allows to adapt to the variety of statutes of existing territories in the Caribbean, giving the opportunity to non-independent territories such as Anguilla and Guadeloupe can now join the organisation.

Thus in respect of devolved competence, unlike a Member State, Guadeloupe as an associate member can not join the treaty of economic union (the Guadeloupe is already part of the European Union) chair the authority, or be part of institutions like the Caribbean bank, the authority of civil aviation.

3. THE ACCESSION OF THE GUADELOUPE OECS

3.1 History of the relationship OECS - Guadeloupe

August 2016	official mail addressed to the Director General of the OECS and the President of the High Authority to restart the negotiation process
September 2016	reply mail of the Director General of the OECS informed of the will of the OECS to see Guadeloupe join the OECS and presentation of the negotiating team
December 2016	Launch of the INTERREG Caribbean V St. Lucia in the presence of the OECS
February 2017	Participation in the Independence Day of Saint Lucia and meeting with the Director General of the OECS Dr. Didacus Jules
July 2017	Sending official letters to the Ambassador in charge of regional cooperation for the West Indies and Guiana zone and the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs expressing the wish of the Region Guadeloupe to join the OECS
August 2017	Official Reply of the Ambassador in charge of regional cooperation for the Antilles-Guyana area informing the support of France in the accession processes of Guadeloupe in the OECS
March 2018	First negotiating session in St. Lucia and the OECS presentation
May 2018	Second negotiating session in Guadeloupe, presentation of cooperation projects in Guadeloupe
July 2018	Sending by OECS a draft accession agreement
July 2018	First meeting of consultation with the State services in the presence of the Ambassador in charge of regional cooperation for the Antilles-Guyana area and first preliminary remarks on the draft agreement
August 2018	Third negotiating session in Guadeloupe and presentation of the draft agreement and its annex

3. THE ACCESSION OF THE OECS GUADELOUPE

3.2 The OECS and Guadeloupe: a cooperation projects

Since 2016, the President of Region Ary Chalus relaunched the accession process of Guadeloupe to the OECS by resuming the interrupted dialogue with the bodies of the Authority of the OECS.

After consultation, in terms of areas of common interest and because of mutual help shown by the destruction occurred during Guadeloupe following the passage of hurricanes and Maria Irma, membership of Guadeloupe became undeniable.

The areas of agribusiness, energy and transport are also matters of common interest. Besides the issue of education can find an alternative through the development of exchange programs. The preservation of biodiversity and management of natural hazards are also important issues for all of those states.

Also consider extensions of air and sea links with Antigua, for example, or improving fitness trail are flagship issues for the development of the Caribbean basin.

It is in this context to develop cooperation through concrete projects as priority areas of cooperation were identified at meetings of negotiations.

Contained in the annex of the draft agreement, these issues have enabled at negotiation meetings to linger more conveniently worn on projects identified by the Guadeloupe Region and supported by the INTERREG European Territorial Cooperation Program Caribbean.

By establishing a regular dialogue with the OECS, the program contributes to the development of institutional cooperation in the Caribbean by promoting development projects.

Example OECS projects

1. "One Web" launched by the OECS for a global access to the Internet,
2. "Yes youth initiative" implemented by the OECS Yes for young people,
3. the competition "30 under 30" for entrepreneurs under 30 years

Structuring projects of the Interreg Caraïbes program

Zoom on



INTERREG Caribbean based on a partnership governance: it is managed by the Region Guadeloupe, which ensures the management authority functions in conjunction with community partners (Guyana Martinique and St. Martin) but also outside the EU which include the OECS in connection with the state and the European Union.

INTERREG Caribbean supports one hand, structuring projects that respond concretely to one or more issues of the cooperation area, and federates the other hand, a network of rich and relevant partner that has a real and measurable impact.

CARIBSKY-PAIR: A single ticket for the Caribbean



Cooperation between the three airlines (Air Antilles, Liat and Winair) with Discover Dominica Authority tourist office will serve to improve air links in the Caribbean. In total, this alliance will serve at least thirty Caribbean destinations. The creation of a common management platform is provided on a three-year period.

CARES: Developing innovative health-term



Telemedicine and e-Health will transfer know-how of French Territories of America (TFA) to the Caribbean and the Caribbean to the TFA, and continually improving the quality of absorptions to be offered primarily to partner countries.

READY TOGETHER: strengthen preparedness of Caribbean territories natural disasters (natural hazards)



The project aims to strengthen preparedness and response to the risks associated with natural disasters of the Caribbean territories by pooling resources in the process of coordination tools and autonomous response capabilities of countries in the occurrence of natural hazards.

4- ANNEX

4.1 Overview of Heads of Government

The Authority of the OECS consists of each member state of the Organisation. Member States are represented on the Authority by their heads of government.

The Authority is the supreme policy making body of the OECS and is responsible for the general direction and control of performance and function of the Organisation. The Authority may issue acts of the Organisation within the legislative competence of the Organisation conferred on him the Revised Treaty of Basseterre. The decisions of the Authority shall be binding on all Member States and United Nations bodies. The Authority meets twice a year and, occasionally, in extraordinary session.

The Presidency of the Authority changes each year in rotation by alphabetical order by country. However, associate membership of Guadeloupe, as Martinique, does not give them the right to chair the Authority.

The current president is Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint - Vincent - and - the - Grenadines.



Hon. Gaston Browne
Prime Minister of Antigua
and Barbuda



Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit
Prime Minister of Dominica



Dr. Hon. Keith Mitchell
Prime Minister of Grenada



Hon. Donaldson Romeo
Premier of Monserrat



Dr. Hon. Timothy Harris
Prime Minister of Saint Kitts
and Nevis



Hon. Allen Chastanet
Prime Minister of Saint Lucia



Dr. Hon Ralph Gonsalves
Prime Minister of Saint
Vincent and the Grenadines



Dr. Andrew Fahie
Premier of the British Virgin
Islands



Hon. Victor F. Banks
Chief Minister of Anguilla



Hon. Alfred Marie-Jeanne
The President of the
Executive Council of
Martinique

4.2 General Organisation OECS

At the head of the OECS, for political governance is the High Authority, there is a rotating presidency is currently devoted to St Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves with Mr. The implementation is provided by the general manager Mr. Didacus Jules.

Leadership Profiles



H.E. Dr. Didacus Jules
Director General



Mrs. Lucy Jean-Charles
Executive Assistant to the
Director General



Mr. Dwight Lay
General Counsel



**Ambassador Anthony
Severin**
Head of International
Relations



Ms. Gale Jean Baptiste
Head of Human Resources



Mr. Chamberlain Emmanuel
Head of Environmental
Sustainability Cluster



Mr. Marcellus Albertin
Head of Human and Social
Cluster



Mr. Francis Burnett
Head of Pharmaceutical
Procurement Service



Mr. Ramon Peachey
Head of Communication



Mrs. Milva Edmunds-Jerome
Head of Monitoring and
Evaluation

Around OECS gravitate various institutions:

- Central Bank of the Eastern Caribbean - ECCB: Outputs the Eastern Caribbean dollar, maintaining its stability and supervises the banking system in the states of the OECS. Formed in 1983 and based in Saint Kitts and Nevis
- The Supreme Court: Superior Court created in 1967 is above the national member-states over.

4.3 Schedule of the accession agreement of Guadeloupe in the OECS

TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN (OECS) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE ACCESSION OF THE REGION TO GUADELOUPE OECS AS ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

This appendix lists the areas of cooperation identified by the Parties (the Region of Guadeloupe and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) in the context of the accession of Guadeloupe in the OECS as Associate Member.

This identification is based in particular on existing cooperation projects and particularly on projects such as CARES in the health field, or CARIBSKY in the air connections.

As a member of the OECS, Guadeloupe will increase its efforts for better synergies between the EDF funding from the ERDF by the European Union for joint projects involving current members of the OECS.

Using tools such as INTERREG Caribbean need to cooperate in the following areas:

- a. Transport;
- b. Biodiversity, environment and issues related to climate change;
- c. Preparation and disaster management;
- d. Health and health services;
- e. Tourism and recreational sailing;
- f. Culture, sports, education and linguistic diversity;
- g. Development of alternative energy sources;
- h. Trade facilitation and information exchange;

TRANSPORT

Guadeloupe and the OECS countries share concerns about the lack of offers of air and maritime transport between their respective countries and will do everything possible to remedy this situation. This shortcoming is an obstacle to efforts to increase travel and tourism between the countries.

The Guadeloupe work with the French authorities and relevant interest of the private sector to examine ways and means for greater interconnectivity between the peoples of the islands. Although it is unlikely that all issues are resolved within five years, simple steps can be taken in the short term.

For example, the project Interreg Pair CaribSky Caribbean, initiated by the private sector (involving LIAT, Air Caraïbes and Winair), will contribute to this effort. The Regional Council of Guadeloupe and the Governments of the OECS islands will give full support to this project (which includes 46 destinations in the English-speaking islands, French, Spanish and Dutch Caribbean).

BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CLIMATE CHANGE

The Guadeloupe is committed to cooperating with the OECS members to contribute to the effective management of shared resources and biodiversity of the region and ensure the beneficial participation of OECS countries to French projects cofinanced by Europe on biodiversity and other environmental areas.

The Guadeloupe is involved in a number of initiatives in the field of climate change resilience for which OECS members have more than a passing interest, for example, the One Planet Strategy led by France, the Strategic Program regional Caribbean for Climate Resilience (SPCR) and the French Program and European Smart Islands, which are intended to engage and interact with local stakeholders on innovative projects developed locally, and create sustainable growth and jobs.

The Guadeloupe is committed to promote in forums considered relevant, the concept of the Eastern Caribbean as a single shared space in which climate resilience projects, including the strengthening of Economy Blue may be pursued jointly.

REDUCING RISK AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Recent experiences of Irma and Maria hurricanes highlighted the need for cooperation and effective coordination between neighboring Eastern Caribbean in disaster situations. It is an absolute necessity and a purpose for which the Guadeloupe feels fully invested.

Indeed, Guadeloupe considering a crucial role for itself as part of those efforts - "a strategic anchor in the disaster response in the Caribbean." The OECS countries and Guadeloupe undertake urgent discussions to formulate coordinated programs of risk reduction and disaster management, including allowing countries to leverage the knowledge of Guadeloupe for resistant construction standards disaster and any other technique or practice in risk reduction.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

The OECS countries and Guadeloupe have common characteristics, namely small-sized population centers, and need expensive medical equipment. The parties recognize the benefits of increased regional cooperation, with particular emphasis on the development of health services, a regional approach in order to rationalize health services, portability of health benefits in the countries of the OECS through adequate insurance.

The pooling of human and economic resources is a challenge to ensure the care of patients. In order to move towards a health care organisation at the regional level, it is expected more cooperation between the territories in order to improve crisis preparedness, access to care and capacity building.

The Guadeloupe has on its territory structures such as the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, the School of Pediatric nurse and advanced equipment such as PET SCAN, which is a significant asset in the pool .

It may be mentioned, for example, the involvement of the OECS in the CARES project financed by Interreg in Guadeloupe, and executed by the Regional Agency of the Caribbean Health.

TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL SAILING

OECS authorities undertake to ensure that there is greater collaboration with the relevant authorities in Guadeloupe. The parties also agree to work together to take advantage of opportunities for joint promotion of tourism and multi-destination marketing, particularly through their participation in working groups or in integration organisations working in favour of a concerted policy to tourism development in the Caribbean.

EDUCATION CULTURE SPORTS AND LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

Given the large number of nationals of the OECS in the population of Guadeloupe, many opportunities for dialogue and exchanges exist in these areas.

The institutions of the OECS are encouraged to involve their counterparts in Guadeloupe various initiatives and programs on culture and sports education. The Guadeloupe seek to facilitate, in conjunction with the competent authorities, the mutual flow of a target audience including students, researchers, top athletes, artists and cultural professionals.

i. Education

Both parties agree to encourage and facilitate the mobility of young people, students and teachers through the establishment of exchange programs as well as professional courses.

ii. Culture

The objective is to promote and revitalize the art and artistic creation in the territories OECS and Guadeloupe, in their different expressions, through the exchange of artistic and cultural exchange through exhibitions and Caribbean art market. The Parties undertake to implement a policy of preserving and enhancing the common cultural heritage.

iii. Sport

The institutions of the OECS and Guadeloupe undertake to promote sports exchanges through the participation of Guadeloupe sports as well as sports OECS competitions of the area but also by carrying out joint training.

iv. linguistic diversity

The accession of Guadeloupe to the OECS contributes to diversifying the linguistic field OECS. Language learning is important to facilitate dialogue between the territories. The learning of English, especially in French-speaking regions also through initiatives encouraging the provision of English teachers OECS; in the same way, promoting the practice of French or Creole assume the provision of French-speaking teachers and Creole. Thus, by its membership of the OECS, Guadeloupe bring his skills to learning of French and Creole.

Development of alternative sources of Energy

The proactive approach of Guadeloupe in the development of renewable energy to achieve its "energy transition" is well known, as its active engagement in geothermal projects with members of the OECS. The aim of the Guadeloupe is positioning itself as a center of excellence in the field of energy. The Guadeloupe wants to continue working with the Member States of the OECS on energy issues and expand its scope of action to include the sharing of experience in the fields of energy efficiency in the building regulations, the energy planning and renewable energy development.

Other related strategic issues to be addressed are the energy transition in the transport sector, the resilient energy systems to climate change, the integration of intelligent solutions and reinforcement of the expertise of energy in the Caribbean. The parties, for example, agreed to actively cooperate in the development of alternative energy and the development and implementation of intelligent energy solutions as part of the Interreg project underway and other mechanisms.

Trade facilitation and exchange of information

The main focus of trade facilitation cooperation will be the Port Community System (PCS) of Guadeloupe. This project, in compliance with which, a number of OECS countries have been approached, is deemed to have the potential to:

- Allow full traceability of goods in the geographical area of the OECS
- Increase the safety and security
- Create a more attractive port and maritime community
- Increased revenues from taxes and import duties
- Facilitate trade.

The parties will cooperate to raise awareness about the project to stakeholders of the OECS islands to accelerate the progress of its implementation.

The Parties shall endeavor to increase awareness in their respective territories of the prospects in terms of increased trade in goods and services due to the accession of Guadeloupe in the OECS; and take steps to facilitate trade procedures between the Parties. For example, the main issue of cooperation in this area is the simplification of trade relations. This question is related to a project with the Port Community System (PCS) of Guadeloupe vis-à-vis the OECS countries.

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