


State of play on the implementation of the 2022 Strategy for the EU outermost regions

Brussels, 3 October 2024




The outermost regions are the most remote parts of the EU and home to 5 million EU citizens. In 2022 the European Commission adopted a strategy to further support these regions across all policies, building on their unique assets and focusing on improving citizens' lives. By 2024, the Commission has delivered on its commitments, working together with the outermost regions and their Member States. The Commission intends to continue supporting the EU outermost regions, in line with the Treaty.

The Treaty (Art. 349 TFEU) provides for specific support measures for the EU outermost regions and their people.



CONSTRAINTS

- Extreme remoteness, (double) insularity and small size
- Vulnerability to climate change
- Economic dependence on a few sectors
- Socio-economic constraints



ASSETS

- High potential for space and astrophysics activities
- Rich biodiversity and renewable energy sources
- Vast maritime zones
- Strategic location near third countries

THE COMMISSION'S 2022 STRATEGY FOR THE OUTERMOST REGIONS AIMS TO:



➤ Improve **living conditions** for people in the outermost regions

➤ Foster **sustainable and inclusive growth**

➤ Strengthen **international cooperation**

➤ Provide **tailored support** and **reflect their specificities** in all EU policies, laws and programmes

ACHIEVEMENTS BY 2024

THE COMMISSION REFLECTED THE OUTERMOST REGIONS' SPECIFICITIES IN ALL POLICIES' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, INITIATIVES, AND PROGRAMMES:



1. COHESION AND SOCIAL

Higher co-financing rate, exceptions for investments, e.g. ports, airports

2. CLIMATE ACTION

Temporary exemption from Emissions Trading Scheme

3. ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

BESTLIFE2030 scheme with 95% co-financing

4. AGRICULTURE

EUR 4.4 billion for resilient agriculture & food autonomy

5. FISHERIES

EUR 330 million for sustainable fisheries & blue economy

6. STATE AID

Support to fishing fleet's modernisation and security

7. DIGITALISATION

Over EUR 125 million for submarine cables under the Connecting Europe Facility

8. TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY

More opportunities within the Trans-European Transport Network

9. TRADE

Sustainable impact assessments and ex-post evaluations

10. RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Horizon Europe and Interregional Investments Initiative

TAILORED SUPPORT



EUR 8.1 billion

From Cohesion Policy alone

EUR 16 billion

Under Cohesion, Agriculture, and Fisheries policies



Dedicated advisory tool



Grant scheme for youth actions



Targeted workshops on EU programmes



STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP AND DIALOGUE

- Annual bilateral dialogues at political and technical level
- Tailored information on EU opportunities



REINFORCED REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Interreg programmes for regional cooperation
- Outermost regions reflected in international agreements (EU-LAC strategic partnership and SAMOA agreement)