

A new strategic vision for the EU's outermost regions:

Strengthening the Union's global reach

September 2026



The nine EU outermost regions, which are part of France, Portugal and Spain, are the most remote regions of the EU and home to more than 5 million people. They extend the EU's presence to South America, the Caribbean region and the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, playing a key geostrategic role in an evolving global landscape.

The strategy puts forward an ambitious approach to support these regions, foster their socioeconomic growth and leverage their geostrategic potential. For the first time, the strategy is accompanied by a regulatory package adapting existing EU legislation to their unique challenges and constraints.

Specific constraints and unique assets of the EU's outermost regions



CONSTRAINTS



Extreme remoteness, insularity
and small size



High vulnerability to global crises,
shocks and severe weather events



Economic dependence on a few
sectors and limited connectivity



Socio-economic constraints, high
unemployment and low GDP



ASSETS



Geostrategic location amidst
major trade routes



Rich biodiversity and renewable
energy sources



Vast maritime zones for blue
economy, innovation and
sustainable tourism



High potential for space activities

The Treaty (Art. 349 TFEU) provides for specific measures, including the adaptation of EU legislation, to address the EU outermost regions' permanent constraints

Four objectives to foster sustainable growth in outermost regions:

1. Geo-strategic potential and regional integration:

- Enhance coordination of EU's internal and external policies
- Strengthen funding complementarity within future Interreg Plans
- Boost space, security and defence capabilities



2. Competitiveness and enhanced access to the Single Market:

- Boost smart specialisation and economic diversification (e.g. blue economy)
- Support research and innovation and foster the environmental, climate and digital transitions
- Boost agriculture and food security

3. Resilience and preparedness:

- Support climate adaptation and tackle environmental challenges (e.g. sargassum)
- Build resilience of critical infrastructure (ports, airports and digital)
- Support measures to manage illegal migration

4. Social fairness and support to people:

- Support employment and labour mobility, and expand access to education and skills
- Drive poverty reduction, social inclusion and access to affordable housing
- Support youth and the right to stay (e.g. new project "Youth4OR2")

A stronger partnership



FIRST EVER REGULATORY PACKAGE

Addressing bottlenecks under EU legislation (in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, environment, migration and taxation).



STRONGER OUTERMOST REGIONS PERSPECTIVE

Reflecting their specificities in future EU legislation and initiatives.



DEDICATED PORTAL

Creating a single-entry point to engage and inform outermost regions stakeholders.



STRONGER COOPERATION

Reinforcing dialogue and coordination with the outermost regions.



ENHANCE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY

Dedicated technical assistance and an improved Advisory Tool.