

## **EU – Caribbean Investment mission in the maritime sector**

### **Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for EU companies**

The EU Delegation in Barbados (EUD) is pleased to invite European companies to express their interest in participating in an upcoming investment mission to the Caribbean, scheduled for **8 – 12 June 2026 to Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda**. This mission aims to strengthen partnerships between European maritime industry leaders and Caribbean stakeholders, while exploring new business and investment opportunities in a region of growing strategic importance.

We are seeking innovative and growth-oriented EU companies across the maritime sector, including shipping, port operations, marine engineering, digital maritime solutions, environmental services, and offshore energy. Companies with a strong interest in international expansion and sustainable development are particularly encouraged to apply.

Participation in the mission is subject to an evaluation process to ensure equal treatment and alignment between company profiles and identified opportunities in the countries visited. Detailed information regarding the mission, participation conditions, and application procedure is presented below.

The deadline to apply is **8<sup>th</sup> of May 2026**.

#### **Rationale**

Enhancing maritime connectivity is a regional priority for the EU in the Caribbean under the Global Gateway Investment Agenda, which aims at mobilising public and private investment for high-quality, sustainable infrastructure projects in a "Team Europe" approach, involving EU institutions and EU member states.

The Caribbean is at a strategic location as it sits at the crossroads of global trade routes connecting Europe and North/South America, Asia and Europe through the Panama Canal. The Caribbean also represents the larger cruise destination globally. This positions the region as a natural hub for port services, bunkering, ship repair, and maritime logistics (including humanitarian logistics and disaster response). Besides global connectivity, Caribbean intra-regional shipping presents untapped opportunities for the EU and EU companies in terms of bankable opportunities and strategic business-to-business (B2B) and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

The EU and the Caribbean can partner to advance global climate and decarbonisation objectives, supporting the deployment of low-emission vessels, port electrification, digitalisation of port operations and digital traffic management. Enhancing maritime links is critical also for disaster preparedness and response, ensuring supply continuity in a hurricane-prone region.

#### **Objective**

The objective of the mission is to facilitate and accelerate strategic investments and partnerships between EU maritime companies and public/private stakeholders in the Caribbean. Specifically, the mission aims to:

1. Identify bankable investment and joint-venture opportunities in the maritime sector, including port modernisation, green and digital services, shipbuilding/repair, electrification, logistics and shipping, maritime safety.

## **EU – Caribbean Investment mission in the maritime sector**

### **Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for EU companies**

2. Facilitate business and policy dialogue between EU firms and Caribbean governments and companies.
3. Promote EU technologies, standards, and best practices in logistics, maritime safety, digitalization, energy efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

#### **Participants – who should apply**

The EUD welcomes applications from companies established in the EU operating in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Port infrastructure development and management.
- Shipping and maritime transport services.
- Marine engineering and shipbuilding.
- Logistics management.
- Maritime digitalization and smart port solutions.
- Environmental and sustainability services (e.g., waste management, decarbonization, electrification).
- Offshore renewable energy (e.g., wind, ocean energy).
- Coastal resilience and climate adaptation solutions.

#### **Mission highlights – what the EU offers**

Participating companies will benefit from:

- Pre-arranged B2B meetings and meetings with key Government stakeholders.
- Site visits to strategic maritime and port facilities.
- Market intelligence briefings and sector-specific insights.
- Networking events with local companies and public stakeholders.
- Tailored follow up support to advance on concrete business opportunities.
- Funding and booking regional flights and local transportation between meetings.
- Hotel block booking for all companies' representatives.

#### **Eligibility and Selection criteria**

Applicants must:

- Be legally established in an EU Member State (HQ and fiscal residency).
- Demonstrate financial capacity.
- Demonstrate relevant experience and expertise in maritime related areas.
- Show a clear interest in internationalization and investment in any or all the three Caribbean countries to be visited.
- Offer innovative, sustainable, or competitive solutions aligned with regional needs.

Implemented by:

## **EU – Caribbean Investment mission in the maritime sector**

### **Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for EU companies**

#### **How to apply**

Interested companies are invited to submit a brief Expression of Interest including:

- Company profile and key areas of expertise.
- Financial statements.
- Motivation for expanding operations in the Caribbean and for joining in the mission (max. 2 pages).
- Investment plan (if available).
- Contact details of one designated company representative to join the mission.

Applications should be submitted by **8<sup>th</sup> of May 2026** at [mariana.arias@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:mariana.arias@eeas.europa.eu).

We encourage interested companies to seize this opportunity to expand their presence in the Caribbean and contribute to the development of a sustainable and resilient maritime sector.