



## Letter of Intent of Cooperation

between

The Government of Sint Maarten,  
The Government of the French Republic  
and the Territorial Council of Saint-Martin

Concerning:

**The Operational Programme for the European Territorial Cooperation**

**OP - ETC**

Whereas the Government of Sint Maarten, the Government of the French Republic and the Territorial Council of Saint-Martin wish to strengthen cooperation between the two parts of the island of Saint-Martin,

Whereas the signatories are convinced that the opportunities offered by the Operational Programme for European Territorial Cooperation constitute a vector of development of the island.

Accordingly, in the context of the Operational Programme on European Territorial Cooperation (OP-ETC), the Government of Sint Maarten, the Government of the French Republic and the Territorial Council of Saint-Martin offer to cooperate, to the extent possible, on the island's structural development projects. Ten (10) million Euros of ERDF funds have been devoted to this end.

The signatories declare their intention to structure their cooperation between both parts of the island for a beneficial partnership in the following manner:

Initials:

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Technicians will gather and assess proposed projects to determine the feasibility within reasonable limits. Projects will be developed from fiches detailing actions to be taken, and their implications and risks in financial, legal, technical and administrative terms. An agreement on these terms will be sought before engaging in formal cooperation and reaching a financial agreement.

The approval of the European territorial cooperation programme will be in two stages:

- Agreement by the Government of Sint Maarten on the OP itself. This agreement should be attached to the final version of the OP at the time of its transmission to the European Commission in September 2014;
- Agreement of the Commission on the provisions of the OP, thus opening the possibility of financing identified projects.

The signatories wish to cooperate in order to ensure the overall improvement of infrastructure and the development of the island of Saint-Martin. To this end, the signatories intend to work on projects and specific governance identified under the European territorial cooperation programme.

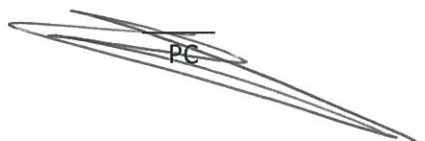
**The projects may be the following:**

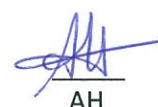
1. Water and Sanitation

- a. Construction of a common wastewater treatment plant that will be located in Cole Bay, Sint Maarten;
- b. Junction: the connections of respective networks of drinking water will be in the context of this project;
- c. Each Government will be responsible for the construction of its waste water connections;

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- d. Whenever possible, electricity and fibre optics may also be included in the common infrastructure connections;
  - e. When possible, each Government will be responsible for supply of its fittings at the agreed connections.
2. Protection of the Environment
- a. Achievement of a comprehensive, common protection of the environment and analysis for economic development of the Simpson Bay Lagoon (maximum 85% from ERDF and the remaining 15% should be funded by Saint-Martin and/or Sint Maarten and/or the State of France);
  - b. A potential project identified on the basis of the results of the study mentioned in paragraph a. above.

## Governance

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1. A Governance Structure will be implemented and will include:
  - a. A Monitoring Committee composed of the préfet délégué to the representative of the State in the Collectivités of St. Barthélemy and Saint-Martin, the President of the Collectivité and the Prime Minister of Sint Maarten. Representatives of the European Union, (DG REGIO or the EU Delegation in Guyana) will also sit on this committee as observers.
  - b. A Joint Technical Secretariat, which will have a permanent presidency, will consist of a director and three officers, each signatory shall appoint an officer.
  - c. A Local Management Team composed of persons from both the French State and the Collectivité of Saint-Martin.
2. This Governance Structure will focus on the use of the OP-ETC funds. It will not handle national funds of the budget of Sint Maarten nor EDF funds. Within its missions of management of the OP-ETC, it ensures the best possible relationship between OP-ETC funds and EDF funds.

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3. The details of the Governance Structure will be set at a later date.

The project on the issue of disaster management will be submitted to the Regional Council of Guadeloupe which is the managing authority of INTERREG-Caribbean programmes, to be treated as a regional project. This project is likely to have a positive potential at a regional level, for neighbouring outermost regions, ACP countries and overseas countries and territories.

Signed in St. Maarten, on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Signed on behalf  
of the Government  
of Sint Maarten

Signed on behalf  
of the Government  
of the French Republic

Signed on behalf  
of the Territorial Council  
of Saint-Martin

The Prime Minister  
of Sint Maarten

  
Sarah WESCOT-WILLIAMS

The Deputy Prefet  
of St. Barthélemy and  
Saint-Martin

  
Philippe CHOPIN

The President  
of the Collectivité  
of Saint-Martin

  
Aline HANSON