

From start-up to scale-up: Practical Approaches to Sargassum Value Chain

Square Building, Brussels, Belgium
Global Gateway Forum 2025 Side Event
8 October
Hybrid format

'From start-up to scale-up'

The 2nd EU-Caribbean Global Gateway Conference on Sargassum, convened by the Government of Grenada, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the European Union (EU) in October 2024, concluded with a renewed ambition to collect sargassum before it reaches the shores to develop sustainable value chains.

Decision makers, industry leaders, academia, and financial institutions took stock of progress in sargassum valorization and committed to work on viable business models and suitable offshore collection solutions.

Since then, different processes have taken place to move forward in the construction of sustainable value chains, identifying critical infrastructure, applicable technologies and possible de-risking operations.

The **3rd EU-Caribbean Sargassum Conference**, to be held on **8 October 2025**, will focus on pragmatic and concrete solutions **under the EU-Global Gateway umbrella**, that have demonstrated success on the ground.

This hybrid event will provide a platform to highlight actionable results from the **Dominican Republic, Mexico, as well as from Grenada**, with a clear emphasis on delivering measurable

impact and exploring their scalability and replicability.

By highlighting concrete case studies, this conference will serve as a **call to action** for stakeholders to **shift their focus from start-up to scale-up solutions**, creating viable pathways for the long-term, sustainable management of sargassum.

The event will also explore financing mechanisms to support the implementation of these solutions, leveraging partnerships and resources from across the region and beyond.

Continued Efforts and Partnerships

This conference is a key initiative under EU- LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda (GGIA). The GGIA seeks to enhance investment in the Caribbean, with sargassum as one of the priorities in which to foster public-private collaboration focusing on: research & innovation; enabling environment and transformation. The event will be key to determine next steps and concrete deliveries with a view of the **EU-CELAC Summit 2025**.

Objectives

To provide pragmatic follow-up to the ongoing efforts for creating sustainable value chains for sargassum in the framework of the Global Gateway initiative and give a push to approaches and operations, in strategic and financial terms

Format and Agenda

The event will take place in a hybrid format. In person participants are welcome to join the Square building in Brussels. Connection details will be provided for those who cannot travel to Brussels.

The programme of the conference will be divided into four interactive sessions aiming to discuss how to scale-up approaches to sargassum, taking place in one day:

1. **Setting the Scene: progress and perspectives**
2. **From Start-Up to Scale-Up – Accelerating Sargassum Solutions**
3. **Development of the Sargassum Value Chains**
4. **Strategic Partnerships: Leveraging Finance for scale-up and Way Forward**

Target Audience

International Financial Institutions, specialized fund managers, and cooperation agencies focused on supporting sustainable solutions.

EU Member States, Caribbean and Latin American Governments, and civil society shaping regional policies and strategies for local communities.

Private sector companies and academia engaged in sargassum valorization, innovation, and sustainable practices.

Organisation and Geographic Scope

Convening Institution and Host - European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Geographic coverage - countries affected by sargassum in the Caribbean basin: Caribbean states, EU outermost regions, OCTs, Central America and Mexico.

Expected Outcomes

The 3rd Sargassum Conference will showcase scalable processes and solutions and provide a unique networking opportunity to unlock investment and financing and foster stronger collaboration between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society.

Under the theme '**From Start-up to Scale-up**', the conference will play a key role in shaping policies for sustainable sargassum management and securing concrete commitments, paving the way for the EU-CELAC Summit 2025.