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Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
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Since 2023, the EU has been addressing the Sargassum crisis in the Caribbean through a Global Gateway (GG) investment initiative, turning this natural phenomenon into an opportunity for sustainable economic activity. GG promotes EU technology and expertise, fostering public-private partnerships and financing mechanisms to unlock investments for scalable sargassum value chains.

In partnership with Caribbean countries, the EU organised two regional conferences and structured a process to identify bankable solutions for collection, processing and valorisation. This is ongoing in Grenada, the Dominican Republic and Mexico, following their commitments to act. Progress and replicable models will be showcased at the third GG Sargassum Conference in Brussels on 8 October 2025.

The outermost regions also drive innovation, notably through SARG'COOP¹ (scientific cooperation network across the wider Caribbean), including overseas countries and territories, to advance algae utilisation.

EU funding is available via the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, the Decision on Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), the European Regional Development Fund, Copernicus and Horizon Europe (including research and innovation projects to monitor and exploit sargassum in the bioeconomy).

Pooling efforts through the Team Europe approach, with the United Nations, the World Bank Group, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean and Inter-American Development Bank, secured EUR 66 million in grants and EUR 320 million in loans, benefiting the Caribbean, including EU outermost regions and OCTs.

¹ <https://sargcoop.org/en/accueil-en/>.