#GlobalGateway #TeamEurope

EU-PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM

Towards an investment partnership

Nadi, Fiji

4 - 5 September 2025

Draft Concept Note

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1. Background

The cooperation between the EU and the Pacific region bears great strategic importance, economic potential and political ambition. Both sides are committed to intensifying cooperation in many strategic sectors such as fighting climate change and developing connectivity.

The launch of the EU Global Gateway in December 2021 underscores the commitment by the EU and its Member States to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport, and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. It is in this spirit that the EU continues supporting and promoting opportunities for investment in the Pacific – taking into account the specific challenges faced by the region, notably in terms of remoteness and vulnerability to climate change. For decades, the EU has been a ***reliable, long-standing development partner*** in the Pacific region – it now aspires to become also ***an investment partner***.

The Pacific region provides indeed opportunities to develop trade ties, as demonstrated by the increasing number of Pacific States joining the Economic Partnership Agreement which currently applies to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. The Federated States of Micronesia Niue, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are on their way to accede to the EPA, and the Republic of Marshall Islands has been recently recognised as official applicant to the same adhesion process, making this EPA a truly regional one – with no less than 11 countries in total once these processes are completed.

The first-ever EU-Pacific Business Forum aims at fostering stronger economic ties between the European Union and the Pacific region, including the French OCTs. It is the realisation of the promise made by former European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen during the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Tonga in August 2024. Organised in Nadi, Fiji on 4 and 5 September 2025, it will aim at supporting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable development in the Pacific region by further diversifying its economy, boosting intra- and interregional trade, reinforcing the rule of law and modernising regulatory frameworks – as well as further integrating the Pacific region into the wider global economy.

2. Objectives

2.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of the Business Forum are:

- to deepen and operationalise the engagement by both the EU and the Pacific region in key sectors of economic, trade and investment cooperation.
- to increase trade and investment between Europe and the Pacific region by discussing existing opportunities and triggering future ones through stronger business relations between European and Pacific companies, with a focus on Global Gateway opportunities.

- To boost intra-regional economic and trade relations between the Pacific countries and territories themselves, including their private sector companies.

2.1.2. Focus sectors and format

High-level opening plenary session

High-level addresses by the EU (INTPA/TRADE), EIB, representatives of key regional organisations and a high-level political representative of Fiji as country hosting the Business Forum.

Presentations and panel discussion on **how to unlock the potential of trade relations between the EU and the Pacific region.**

- Market exposure and visibility of Pacific products for import to the EU, notably in the context of the EPA; strategies to reduce trade barriers and develop trade between the EU and the Pacific, as well as regional trade with likeminded partners and OCTs
- European tools that can support/guarantee public and private sector investment operations in the Pacific
- Promotion of safe business environment and sustainable and responsible investment practices, including payment mechanism and Correspondent Banking Relations.

Sector-specific panel discussions

This list is provided for indicative purpose only.

1. **Blue economy: local business for local and European markets**

   Prominent European and Pacific companies operating in the blue economy will discuss the challenges and opportunities they face with respect to this key economic sector, and solutions such as EU-funded projects and investment possibilities will be highlighted.

2. **Digital connectivity**

   Representatives of AFD, Australia (AIFFP), EIB, the EU (INTPA) and Pacific countries will discuss the potential of digital connectivity technologies and infrastructure investments to drive economic growth and development in the Pacific, highlighting notably the cable and satellite communication projects under the Global Gateway digital connectivity flagship.

3. **Renewable Energy and Climate Change:**

In this panel discussion, representatives of European and Pacific public and private sector will present and discuss ongoing and potential collaboration on renewable energy projects and technologies.

Networking

In order to offer participants opportunities to connect and build relationships, the Forum will include space and time for networking events such as B2G (Business to Government) and B2B (Business to Business) meetings.

Exhibitions and side events

The Business Forum will also showcase projects, products and services from both the EU and Pacific region. Side events may also be organised, notably for signing ceremonies of new EU-funded projects.

High-level closing by the European Commissioner for International Partnerships Josef Síkela

The Commissioner will summarise the main outcomes and deliverables of the Business Forum and announce the next steps towards a closer investment/business relationship between the EU and the Pacific.

2.1.3. Expected outcomes

The Business Forum is expected to improve mutual understanding and trust and improve the business environment for economic interaction between the EU and the Pacific.

The expected outcomes are:

- Shared understanding: increased awareness and understanding of each other's cultures, economies, challenges and priorities.
- New business relationships built and increased connections between European and Pacific countries companies and government entities.
- Increased awareness of European companies on products available in the Pacific suitable for import to Europe.
- Increased awareness of existing business promotion tools in the EU.
- Increased awareness of companies in the Pacific on rules and procedures to export their products to Europe.
- Increased awareness of European companies on opportunities to export European products in the Pacific and increased knowledge of the economic environment of Pacific countries.
- Identify needs and priorities in terms of possible investments in connectivity and renewable energy in the Pacific – link relevant actors including governments, DFIs, private companies.

- Enhanced collaboration: development of partnerships and joint projects on key areas of cooperation.

3. Participants

The Business Forum aims to provide a platform for businesses from Europe and the Pacific region, industry experts as well as political and economic decision-makers to ensure sustainable economic development and increased economic interaction between the Pacific and the European Union.

Participants include:

- Pacific private sector companies interested to develop their business with the European Union and the Member States and/or within the region.
- European private sector companies already operating or interested to develop business in the Pacific region.
- European Chambers of Commerce, EU Member States' chambers of commerce, trade promotion agencies.
- Private sector organisations and associations for the Pacific:
- Ministers or other government officials from PICS, Timor-Leste, and OCTs
- Relevant Pacific regional organisations
- Development partners and multi-donor platforms
- European and multilateral financial institutions
- Relevant UN agencies
- Relevant civil society organisations from the Pacific region
- EU Institutions