The Outermost Regions
European regions of assets and opportunities
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The Outermost Regions
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The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) recognises by name, in Articles 349 and 355, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands as regions forming an integral part of the European Union with the status of Outermost Regions (ORs).

The status of OR recognises the specific characteristics of these regions which set them apart from the rest of the EU and have an impact on their economic development. These characteristics include factors such as their remoteness, insularity, difficult topography and climate and economic dependence on a small number of products (sugar, bananas, etc.). However, these regions also have major assets and the potential not only to contribute to their own development, but also to that of Europe as a whole. They can act as excellent laboratories for studying and combating the effects of climate change, they have exceptional biodiversity and marine ecosystems, great potential for the development of renewable energies and leading-edge agri-environmental research, and so on.

‘The ORs: regions of assets and opportunities to be nurtured’ – this is Europe’s new, ambitious approach to its distant, dynamic borders.

In order to coordinate policies involving the ORs, give them greater visibility by taking into account their specific constraints and making the most of their assets, the European Commission has created the ‘Coordination of Outermost Regions’ unit and an OR interservice group.

This step has been complemented by an active partnership and concerted action between the services of the Commission, the Member States and the outermost regions.

The ORs and Cohesion Policy

Cohesion Policy provides the ORs with important support designed to help them achieve greater economic and social convergence with the rest of the Community. On top of the €5 billion that these regions will receive for the 2007–13 period from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (for the Portuguese ORs) and the European Social Fund (ESF), the EU’s Cohesion Policy has earmarked additional funding to offset higher costs faced by the ORs, at the rate of €35 per inhabitant per year (a total of €979 million for all the regions).
The ORs also benefit from various financial instruments and mechanisms implemented in the areas of fishing (European Fisheries Fund – EFF) and agriculture (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – EAFRD – and Programme of Options Specifically Relating to Remoteness and Insularity – POSEI).

Furthermore, the ORs are closely involved in the territorial cooperation programmes co-financed by the ERDF, which are a key tool for strengthening their integration in their local geographical areas. Four transnational and cross-border cooperation programmes have been dedicated to them for the 2007–13 period:

> the Macaronesia programme which brings together Madeira, the Azores and the Canary Islands and establishes links with the neighbouring countries of West Africa;

> the Caribbean programme between Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Martin, Saint Barthélemy and French Guiana, which also establishes links with the countries of the Caribbean region;

> the Indian Ocean programme, to establish links between Réunion and the neighbouring countries of the Indian Ocean;

> the Amazon programme, in place since 2007, between French Guiana, Suriname and the Amazonian states of north-eastern Brazil (Amapá, Pará, and Amazonas).

Evolving ORs ...

With the referendum of March 2009, Mayotte, formerly one of the French Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), approved its change of status to French Overseas Department, which is due to come into effect in 2011. Consequently, on the basis of Article 355 of the TFEU, it is possible that Mayotte will join the group of ORs.

In 2007, Saint Barthélemy, which was formerly attached to Guadeloupe, became an overseas collectivity under French legislation and, in relation to the EU, hopes to leave the group of ORs to become an OCT (Overseas Country and Territory).

Finally, the Netherlands Antilles and the island of Aruba have expressed an interest in acquiring the status of OR.
Ponta Delgada

The Azores

MEMBER STATE  Portugal
LOCATION  An archipelago located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 1,500 km west of Lisbon, off the north-west coast of Morocco.

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SURFACE AREA  2,322 km²
POPULATION  242,600 inhabitants
DENSITY  104.47 inhabitants/km²
CAPITAL  Ponta Delgada

TOPOGRAPHY  The Azores archipelago is of volcanic origin and is characterised by its mountainous relief. It comprises nine islands distributed in three natural geographic groups spread over an area of 600 km:
   > the eastern group consists of the islands of São Miguel (the largest of the Azores) and Santa Maria;
   > the central group comprises the islands of Faial, Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, and Pico;
   > the western group is made up of the islands of Flores and Corvo (the smallest).

CLIMATE  The Azores have a maritime climate, which is very wet with little variation throughout the year. The average annual temperature is 24 °C.

Most of the islands are subject to intense seismic activity. Mount Pico volcano on the island of Pico (2,351 m) is the highest point in the Azores and Portugal.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES  The traditional activities of the Azores are livestock farming for the production of meat and dairy products (25% of Portuguese milk production), the agri-food industry (canned foods, drinks, tobacco) and fishing.

The archipelago’s growth activities are tourism (water sports), oceanography, climatology and meteorology.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS  Since 1976, the Azores, like Madeira, have formed an Autonomous Region of the Republic of Portugal, with its own executive and a regional legislative assembly.

The seat of the regional government is in Ponta Delgada, on the island of São Miguel. The Azores lie 1,500 km from Lisbon.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES  The Portuguese archipelago is home to the Atlantic Air Control Centre. North of Santa Maria, which continues to be a key location for global civil aviation, is the USAF air base at Lajes.

The disciplinary specialities of the Azores are fishing and oceanography (University of the Azores, Department of Oceanography and Fisheries).
Focus on ...

The Azores

PICO: LEADING THE WAY IN ‘NEW GENERATION’ CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH

Since 1998, the Azores, and more precisely the island of Pico, have hosted a pilot project researching clean energy. The subject of the study is wave energy which uses the power of waves (resulting from the action of wind on the sea) to produce electricity.

The various technologies developing this concept could, in theory, supply nearly a fifth of the region’s electricity needs (according to a study conducted by the Wave Energy Centre, WavEC). Waves are harnessed to power electricity-generating turbines; the resultant electricity is then transported via submarine cables to the coast, where it feeds into the network.

The Pico power station has proven that the technology deployed works. The next task will be to optimise its efficiency in order to increase electricity generation; this has been kept fairly low during the experimental phase in order to protect the installation which is subjected to extreme conditions.

The benefits of wave energy are numerous: as well as being entirely renewable, this clean energy source would be less costly, more stable and more predictable than wind power.

Harnessing wave energy on the island of Pico, Azores
Courtesy of Wave Energy Centre

To find out more: http://www.wavec.org/
Project co-financed by the European Union
### The Canary Islands

**MEMBER STATE**  Spain  

**LOCATION**  The Canary Islands are an Atlantic archipelago of seven islands, lying north-west of the Moroccan Sahara.  

**SURFACE AREA**  7,447 km²  

**POPULATION**  1,975,200 inhabitants  

**DENSITY**  265.23 inhabitants/km²  

**CAPITAL**  Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, alternately

**TOPOGRAPHY**  The archipelago is made up of seven main islands and a few islets and extends over 450 km. Geographically, the Canary Islands are part of Macaronesia, an area of volcanic origin located to the north-west of the African coast. The relief is very varied. On Tenerife, Mount Teide (3,718 m) is Spain’s highest summit. The combination of low rainfall and the topography of these islands results in a few water points, but no rivers. The islands most exposed to the influence of the ocean and rain are La Palma and El Hierro.  

**CLIMATE**  The average annual temperature is 20 °C (with limited fluctuations), except in the mountains where temperatures are lower.  

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**  The traditional activities of the Canary Islands are the cultivation of bananas, tomatoes, potatoes and tobacco, livestock farming, fishing, fish farming, plant and flower cultivation, wine production, construction, energy and seawater desalination. The islands' growth activities are biomedical research and development, astronomy and tourism.  

**POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS**  The Canary Islands are part of the Spanish system of Autonomous Communities within the constitutional monarchy. The Canary Islands have an independent government and their own 60-seat parliament. They are divided into two provinces: Las Palmas and Santa Cruz de Tenerife. The Canary Islands lie 2,000 km from Madrid.  

**UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES**  The University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) specialises in health, oceanography, aquaculture and information and communication technologies. The University of La Laguna (ULL) specialises in human and social sciences, biomedical engineering, health, energy and the environment.
Focus on ...  

The Canary Islands

THE GTC AT THE FOREFRONT OF GLOBAL ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION

On 23 July 2009, the Great Telescope of the Canary Islands (known by its Spanish acronym GTC) was inaugurated. It is the world’s largest and most advanced optical-infrared telescope. Installed on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands archipelago, the GTC is the most powerful telescope on this wavelength. The GTC incorporates several state-of-the-art technologies and is able to produce images comparable to those of space telescopes, but of an even better quality.

The promoter of this project is the Astrophysics Institute of the Canary Islands. Financed by Europe, Mexico, Spain and the University of Florida in the United States, the GTC incorporates some unique instruments: the ‘Osiris’, which makes it possible to observe phenomena visible to the naked eye, and the ‘CanariCam’, a leading-edge camera in terms of infrared technology that makes it possible to observe cold objects in space that are invisible to the naked eye, such as stars in the process of forming or the most distant galaxies.
Guadeloupe

MEMBER STATE  France

LOCATION  Atlantic Ocean/Caribbean Sea

SURFACE AREA  1,702.6 km²

POPULATION  438,000 inhabitants

DENSITY  257.25 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL  Basse Terre

TOPOGRAPHY  Located at the heart of the Caribbean-Antilles arc, straddling the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, Guadeloupe is the largest island of the French West Indies. The Guadeloupe archipelago consists of five groups of islands. Together, Basse Terre to the west and Grande-Terre to the east form mainland Guadeloupe, although they are separated by a narrow sea channel (called ‘Salt River’). Around this butterfly1 of land which appears to have landed on the sea lies the archipelago of Les Saintes and its neighbours, the islands of La Désirade and Marie-Galante. Guadeloupe is characterised by rugged relief, resulting in some very varied landscapes. The highest island of Basse Terre is covered in very dense forest and its landscape is dominated by the Soufrière volcano (1,467 m high). Grande-Terre, meanwhile, is a low-altitude plateau which lends itself to livestock farming and agriculture.

CLIMATE  The archipelago has a tropical climate tempered by maritime influences and the trade winds. Its average annual temperature of 26 °C makes it a key tourist destination of the Caribbean. Due to its geological characteristics, Guadeloupe is classed in Zone III according to France’s seismic zoning.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES  Guadeloupe’s economy is mainly based on agriculture, industry and tourism. Its traditional activities include the export of bananas, sugar, rum and melons. Melon production is a good example of successful diversification. In addition to tourism and the agri-food industry, education is Guadeloupe’s third growth activity.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS  A French overseas department since the law of 19 March 1946, Guadeloupe is divided into two administrative districts (Basse Terre and Pointe-à-Pitre). This single-department region is unusual in that it has a dual executive (a departmental council and a regional council). Guadeloupe is 6,800 km from Paris.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES  Guadeloupe is home to the main campus of the University of the French West Indies and Guiana (Fouillole and Saint-Claude campus). The Guadeloupe site is home to the Faculties of Science and Medicine, among others.

1. Because of their shape and arrangement, these two islands are often likened to this insect.
Focus on ...

Guadeloupe

THE MARIE-GALANTE BLUES FESTIVAL: AN OPEN DOOR ON CARIBBEAN SPIRIT AND THE WORLD

For 11 years (since 1999), in the month of May, Marie-Galante, an island of around 12,400 inhabitants which is administratively attached to Guadeloupe, has held the Marie-Galante ‘Terre de Blues’ festival, which is now one of the most important musical events of the Lesser Antilles.

This international event has established itself as a major date in the Caribbean cultural calendar. The ‘Terre de Blues’ festival was created by the population itself as an original way of promoting Marie-Galante and Guadeloupe.

The aim of the event is to generate a cultural current around Creole heritage, publicise customer growth markets and, finally, showcase Marie-Galante and Guadeloupe as a land of authenticity.

With proven tourism appeal and with the opening up of real perspectives of economic development for the island, the Marie-Galante festival is also an opportunity for a rich cultural exchange between Africa, Creole America and Europe.

‘Tambouyé’ (drummer) at the Marie-Galante ‘Terre de Blues’ festival, Guadeloupe
© Henry Santenac

To find out more: http://www.terredeblues.com/
Project co-financed by the European Union
French Guiana

**MEMBER STATE**  France

**LOCATION**  French Guiana is located on the edge of the Atlantic between the Orinoco and Amazon rivers, in north-east South America, between Suriname and Brazil.

**SURFACE AREA**  85,533.9 km²

**POPULATION**  209,700 inhabitants

**DENSITY**  inhabitants/km² – Distinctive feature: the coast is densely populated while the hinterland is almost empty.

**CAPITAL**  Cayenne

**TOPOGRAPHY**  With the exception of a broad strip (15 to 50 km wide) of savannah running along the entire Atlantic coast (350 km), 90% of the country is covered in primary forest, which is only accessible by river or air. The ‘lowlands’ extend along the coast. Mainly consisting of quaternary marine deposits, they account for 6% of the total surface area of French Guiana. The region’s central massif, also called ‘high land’ or ‘median band’, appears as a succession of small hills which rarely exceed a few dozen metres in height, running from north to south. Bellevue Mountain, the highest point of French Guiana, stands at 851 m.

**CLIMATE**  The region is characterised by a humid equatorial climate with an average annual temperature of 27 °C.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**  French Guiana’s traditional activities are fishing, mining (extracted gold is the region’s leading export), forestry (export of timber to the national market: Guadeloupe, Martinique, metropolitan France), construction, agriculture (market garden produce, citrus fruits, cassava, rice, sugar cane and flowers) as well as rice cultivation. Its growth activities are space exploration (the Kourou Space Centre was opened in 1968), tourism (ecotourism, cultural tourism (carnival) and business travel), tax and finance.

**POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS**  French Guiana has been a French overseas department since the law of 19 March 1946. This single-department region has two administrative districts, Cayenne and Saint-Laurent du Maroni. Like Martinique, on 24 January 2010, following a local referendum, French Guiana voted to establish a single authority (resulting from the merging of the departmental council and the regional council). French Guiana is 7,500 km from Paris.

**UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES**  French Guiana is home to the National Centre for Space Studies; the Guyane Technopole technology park whose mission is to promote business projects in the high-technology sector; the University of the French West Indies and Guiana as well as the French Guiana university campus (including the Department of Tropical Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine).
Focus on ...  
French Guiana

FRENCH GUIANA DECIPHERS  
THE WONDERS OF BIODIVERSITY

The Nouragues Nature Reserve is an excellent place to study the functioning of tropical forests and their biodiversity. The National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) has a research station there and is setting up a network of observatories for the study of the tropical forest environment.

The CNRS station at Nouragues plays host to scientists from national and international research organisations studying the long-term functioning of tropical forests and their biodiversity beyond human influence. The aim is to put together a comprehensive picture of the ecosystem in order to better understand how it works and be able to preserve natural spaces or manage them in a sustainable manner.

Inselberg Cliffs, Nouragues Nature Reserve  
© Sean McCann

To find out more: http://www.nouragues.cnrs.fr/GB-descriptive.html
MEMBER STATE Portugal
LOCATION An archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean to the west of Morocco composed of the island of Madeira (with a surface area of 797 km²) and several other small islands.

SURFACE AREA 828 km²
POPULATION 245,500 inhabitants
DENSITY 296.46 inhabitants/km²
CAPITAL Funchal

TOPOGRAPHY The archipelago consists of two main islands, Madeira and Porto Santo, surrounded by uninhabited islets: the Desertas Islands (protected since 1990, which now form a nature reserve) and the Selvagens Islands (listed as UNESCO World Heritage). The archipelago has a very diverse relief. The island of Madeira has a very steep relief; the highest point of which is Pico Ruivo (1,861 m). The topography of the island of Porto Santo, meanwhile, is quite the opposite. It is very flat, has 9 km of golden sandy beaches and remains relatively untouched by tourism. The Desertas have a sheer relief, unlike the Selvagens.

CLIMATE In terms of climate, Madeira’s average annual temperatures vary from 16 to 22 °C. Rainfall can be high in places, particularly on the north coast. Porto Santo lies outside this cloud belt and, consequently, has much lower rainfall than Madeira. The Desertas and Selvagens Islands have an arid climate.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES The traditional activities of Madeira include agriculture (bananas destined for the local and mainland markets, flowers and wine), embroidery, tapestries and basket weaving. Finally, tourism constitutes the largest source of income for the Madeiran economy. Its growth activities are mainly related to the financial sector: the Madeira free zone incorporates financial, industrial and commercial activities and enjoys a series of tax and financial benefits. Offshore banking also benefits from a specific financial system.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS Since 1976, Madeira, like the Azores, has formed an Autonomous Region of the Republic of Portugal, with its own executive and a regional legislative assembly. The seat of the regional government is located in Funchal. The region is subdivided into eleven districts. Madeira lies 1,000 km from Lisbon.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES The archipelago has a university, the University of Madeira (human and social sciences). It is also home to an astronomical observatory and the Centre of Biological and Geological Sciences (Centre for Macaronesian Studies) and the Centre for Mathematical Studies. The Madeira Science and Technology Centre (CITMA) also supports research and development activities. Finally, Madeira Tecnopolo is a technology park that specialises in information and communication technologies and the environment.
Focus on ...

Madeira

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROELECTRICITY FOR A VARIETY OF USES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The Socorridos hydroelectric plant was developed in order to harness renewable energy sources, optimise water production for inhabitants and improve irrigation. Using a system of tunnels and canals totalling nearly 15.5 km, this project takes advantage of Madeira’s specific relief, collecting water in the mountainous northern part of the island then transferring it to the south.

Madeira’s public electricity company has transformed the hydroelectric plant into a reversible system, making it possible to produce electricity throughout the year, regardless of rainfall. During the summer season, in particular, water can be pumped back into the reservoirs to be reused for electricity production. Similarly, during periods of heavy rain, the pumps work at night to store water for reuse the following day. This modernisation of the Socorridos power plant has made it possible to secure the supply of water and electricity to the population and minimise the loss of water while protecting the island’s natural resources.

Soccoridos hydroelectric plant, Madeira
© European Union

To find out more: http://www.eem.pt/
Project co-financed by the European Union
Fort-de-France
Martinique

MEMBER STATE  France
LOCATION  Caribbean Sea (Atlantic Ocean)
SURFACE AREA  1,128 km²
POPULATION  398,900 inhabitants
DENSITY  353.63 inhabitants/km²
CAPITAL  Fort-de-France

TOPOGRAPHY  With its varied, rugged relief, Martinique is a land of contrasts. Its more mountainous and wetter northern part is dominated by Mount Pelée (1,400 m high). In the south, the less rugged relief consists of alternating plains and rounded hillocks. The indented coastline offers numerous bays and coves. Martinique has 48 islets, fragile ecosystems and reservoirs of plant species.

CLIMATE  Its climate is tropical, warm and wet, tempered by the trade winds. The archipelago's average annual temperature is 26 °C.

Like the other islands of the Lesser Antilles, Martinique is exposed to cyclonic and seismic phenomena.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES  The main traditional activities of Martinique are banana cultivation (the island’s leading agricultural export), the production of cane sugar and rum (registered designation of origin), and local crafts. Tourism and agro-industry are the island’s growth activities.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS  Martinique has had the status of French overseas department since the law of 19 March 1946. This single-department region is made up of four administrative districts: Saint Pierre (North Caribbean); Trinité (North Atlantic); Fort-de-France (centre) et Le Marin (south). In addition, there is a Central Martinique Agglomeration Community (CACEM).

Like French Guiana, on 24 January 2010, following a local referendum, Martinique voted to introduce a single executive (resulting from the merging of the departmental council and the regional council). Martinique is 6,850 km from Paris.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES  The Martinique branch of the University of the French West Indies and Guiana is home to the Victor Schoelcher university campus, which includes the Faculty of Law and Economics, La Meynard University Hospital, the International Centre for Research, Exchange and Cooperation of the Caribbean and the Americas (CIRECCA), as well as the Creole- and French-language Study and Research Group (GEREC-F).
Focus on ...

Martinique

THE PHARMACOPOEIA OF FRENCH GUIANA AND THE FRENCH WEST INDIES: A UNIQUE MEDICINAL HERITAGE

Martinique’s pharmacopoeia is the result of the merging of successive migratory contributions (from Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, India and China). The new molecules and phytomedicines waiting to be identified and developed from it have the potential to enrich modern medical science and cosmetics.

Important research work carried out by the pan-Caribbean NGO TRAMIL (TRAditional Medicine for the ISlands), has verified the pharmacological properties of medicines used in the Caribbean for the treatment of some 30 domestic diseases. Innovative solutions more in harmony with cultural traditions, using more environmentally-friendly production processes and at a lower cost have been proposed.

France’s recent Law for the Economic Development of the Overseas Departments and Territories (LEDEOM) recognises the value of the species found in the West Indies and their incorporation into the French pharmacopoeia, considering it a rich, untapped therapeutic resource to be promoted at the national and European levels.

*Cor**dia martinicensis (maho-nwè), an endemic species of Martinique

© André Exbrayat, Éditions Exbrayat

To find out more: [http://www.funredes.org/endacaribe/traducciones/tramil.html](http://www.funredes.org/endacaribe/traducciones/tramil.html)
Réunion

MEMBER STATE  France
LOCATION  Located in the Indian Ocean, approximately 800 km east of Madagascar, Réunion Island together with the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues, form the Mascarenhas Archipelago.

SURFACE AREA  2,503.7 km²
POPULATION  786,200 inhabitants
DENSITY  314 inhabitants/km²
CAPITAL  Saint-Denis

TOPOGRAPHY  Réunion’s 210 km coastline is largely inhospitable, with the exception of the 25 km of white-sand coral beaches and the 14 km of black sand to the west of the island. Characterised by a steep relief, the island is the site of one of the world’s most active volcanoes: the Piton de la Fournaise (2,631 m high).

CLIMATE  Réunion has a humid tropical climate which is influenced by the trade winds. The presence of high mountains gives rise to marked microclimatic differences: in terms of precipitation, the rainy east coast is exposed to the wind while the relatively dry west coast is protected by the topography; in terms of temperature, the coastal areas are warm while the higher areas are relatively cool.

The average annual temperatures range from 21 to 32 °C at sea level and 12 to 22 °C in the mountains. Réunion is located in the cyclone path (the most active period is from January to March).

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES  Réunion’s traditional activities are fishing, agriculture (primarily sugar cane, meat and milk) and manufacturing (including intermediate goods, capital goods and convenience goods).

Its growth activities include tourism, the agri-food industry, health industry, biomedical research, technologies linked to microalgae culture and the solar energy industry.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS  Réunion has been a French overseas department since 1946. The territory is divided into four administrative districts: Saint-Denis, Saint Benoît, Saint Paul and Saint Pierre. Like Guadeloupe, this single-department region has a dual executive (a departmental council and a regional council). French Guiana is 7,500 km from Paris.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES  The University of Réunion’s main disciplines are law, economics and management, arts and humanities, as well as science, technology and health.
Réunion

RÉUNION SUGAR CANE: DRIVING THE BIOREFINERY PROJECT

Over the past 77 years (since 1933), the Centre for Trials, Research and Training (CERF) of Réunion, now called eRcane, has created more than 584 varieties of locally-planted sugar cane which is exported worldwide (to Asia, Africa, the Indian Ocean and even the West Indies).

New varieties of ‘Réunion Island sugar cane’ have recently been developed. Highly sought-after, they achieve a field yield of more than 40%, a slightly lower sugar content and a fibre content 30% higher than the best varieties currently cultivated.

This exceptional sugar cane plays a part in the biorefinery project (also referred to as ‘green chemistry’).

It can be transformed into various products that are useful to the industrial and agri-food sectors and is becoming a potentially important resource for energy applications, particularly biorefineries. Sugar is produced from the cane, its bagasse is extracted for power stations, the scum is used as fertiliser and the molasses syrup is used in the production of rum and other food preparations.
Saint Barthélemy

MEMBER STATE  France

LOCATION  In the Caribbean Sea (Atlantic Ocean), Saint Barthélemy is an archipelago made up of several of the Leeward Islands and located in the Lesser Antilles, 25 km east of Saint Martin and 230 km north-west of Guadeloupe.

SURFACE AREA  21 km² (25 km² including its islets)

POPULATION  8,500 inhabitants

DENSITY  400 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL  Gustavia

TOPOGRAPHY  In addition to the main island, Saint Barthélemy comprises the following islets: Chevreau, Coco, Fourchue, Frégate, La Tortue, Le Boulanger, Les Grenadins, Pain de Sucre, Pelé, Petit-Jean and Toc Vers.

Saint Barthélemy is a mountainous island. Its highest point is Morne Vitet at 268 m. Saint Barthélemy is also characterised by its aridity.

CLIMATE  Its climate is tropical with minimal temperature variations. The average annual air and sea temperature is 27 °C.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES  Saint Barthélemy's traditional activities are business services, the construction sector, trade and non-financial market services.

Its growth activities are tourism, luxury trade, the hotel and catering industry as well as real estate rental.

Due to its small surface area and aridity, Saint Barthélemy does not have the necessary conditions for agriculture or the development of industries.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS  On 15 July 2007, Saint Barthélemy, which was formerly a district of Guadeloupe, acquired the status of overseas collectivity of the French Republic, governed by the Organic Law of 21 February 2007 in accordance with Article 74 of the Constitution, like Saint Martin.

Saint Barthélemy is 6,500 km from Paris.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES  Saint Barthélemy's school network is limited to preschool, primary and secondary educational establishments.

Source: French Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories
Focus on …
Saint Barthélemy

FROM INCINERATION TO DRINKING WATER

In 2001, Saint Barthélemy built an incineration plant coupled with a thermal seawater desalination plant, capable of resolving the island’s shortage of drinking water at the height of the tourist season.

This proactive initiative led to the bringing into service of the Caribbean region’s first household waste incineration plant that conforms to European standards.

This plant was built and is run by the TIRU (Industrial Treatment of Urban Waste) group, which is a 51% subsidiary of EDF.

This unit incinerates all household waste (and products treated as such) on the island of Saint Barthélemy and achieves an energy recovery rate of 80% (three tonnes of steam produced per tonne of waste incinerated).

It is worth noting that the incineration unit has been connected to a seawater desalination plant since it was brought into service in 2001. The steam released is harnessed to produce 1,350 m³ of drinking water a day. Meanwhile, the purified smoke residues from incineration of the household waste are shipped to metropolitan France to be stored in a Class 1 storage facility in compliance with current European legislation.
Saint Martin

**MEMBER STATE**  France  
**LOCATION**  Caribbean Sea  
(Atlantic Ocean)  
**SURFACE AREA**  51 km² (90 km² in total)  
**POPULATION**  35,300 inhabitants  
(74,220 inhabitants in total)  
**DENSITY**  692.15 inhabitants/km²  
**CAPITAL**  Marigot

**TOPOGRAPHY**  The northern part of the island is the largest and most hilly (small hillocks). The peninsula of Terres-Basses, which consists of a plateau and the three Mornes Rouges (Red Hills), is connected to the rest of the island by the Sandy Ground spit.

Pointe des Canonniers is the most westerly point of the territories of the European Union (EU).

**CLIMATE**  The climate is tropical, tempered by maritime influences and the trade winds. The average annual temperature is 26 °C.

Like the rest of the region, Saint Martin is exposed to strong seismic activity.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**  Saint Martin’s traditional activities are trade, construction and services.

Its growth activities are luxury tourism, recreational tourism and culinary tourism.

**POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS**  The political organisation of this island is divided between its French part in the north (Saint Martin) and its Dutch part in the south (Sint Maarten).

Saint Martin has been a French overseas collectivity since 15 July 2007. Prior to that, it was administratively dependent on the overseas department of Guadeloupe, of which it formed the third administrative district with Saint Barthélemy, which has also become an overseas collectivity.

Saint Martin is 6,700 km from Paris.

**UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES**  Saint Martin’s school network is limited to preschool, primary and secondary educational establishments.

Source: French Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories
Focus on ...

Saint Martin

‘THE SAINT MARTIN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE’

Created in 1998 by ministerial decree and having a surface area of 3,060 ha, Saint Martin National Nature Reserve is located in the north-eastern part of the island. Both coastal and marine, its aim is to protect its natural habitats from all forms of pollution and/or degradation, thus enabling the restoration of plant and animal species. This preserved ecosystem plays a significant ecological role in the island’s coastal marine environment, while at the same time offering a unique space for education and discovering nature.

Within the reserve, Tintamarre Island is one of the sites with the richest marine and terrestrial biodiversity and densest populations.
The ORs in figures

SOME SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

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<td>69</td>
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CONTRIBUTION FROM EUROPEAN SUBSIDIES (2007-13), IN THOUSANDS OF EURO

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<td>1 332 000</td>
<td>1 233 000</td>
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Source: Eurostat (2006–07)

Note: The Eurostat socio-economic statistics for Saint Martin and Saint Barthélemy, which became fully fledged outermost regions (ORs) on 1 December 2009, have not yet been separated from those of Guadeloupe (to which they were previously attached).

In addition to these amounts there is the POSEI budget (Programme of Options Specifically Relating to Remoteness and Insularity) of €628.5 million as well as a total of €101.4 million from the EFF (European Fisheries Fund) distributed to the ORs through the Member States. The grand total of the European subsidies is €7.9 billion for all the ORs for the 2007–13 period.