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Belize Participates in the 65th Session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and 2nd Session of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

- Monday, 16th November 2026 - The President of the Senate, Honourable Carolyn Trench-Sandiford represented the National Assembly of Belize at the 65th Session of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly and the 2nd Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in Brussels, Belgium November 7th – 13th, 2026.

Madam President participated in the meeting of the Bureau of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and in the 65th Session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly held Saturday and Sunday, 7th and 8th November 2026, and in the 2nd OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, from Monday, 9th November to Friday November 13th 2026.

The matters discussed during these meetings included global security and multilateralism in an increasingly interconnected, multipolar and fragmented world; ocean governance, within the context of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference held in Nice; financing for development, as a follow up to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development held in Seville; critical raw materials in a changing geopolitical landscape, with an emphasis on mutually beneficial and sustainable partnerships between the OACPS and the EU; and the Global Gateway initiative and its role in strengthening cooperation, partnerships and investment between the EU and OACPS regions. The President also participated in a field visit to the Port of Antwerp, Europe's second-largest port, during which presentations were delivered on its operations, energy transition strategies, and initiatives aimed at facilitating capacity-building and promoting the exchange of knowledge and expertise in port management between the two regions.

These engagements are all of critical importance to Belize as a small, developing, climate-vulnerable nation whose security, economic resilience, sustainable development and international influence depend on strong multilateral cooperation, protection of its ocean and marine resources, access to development financing, responsible management of critical natural resources, and strategic partnerships and investments that advance national priorities and strengthen Belize's position within the OACPS-EU relationship.

As Vice-President of the Caribbean-European Parliamentary Assembly, the President aco-chaired the Civil Society Consultation session *"Working Together to Protect Our Oceans"* with H.E. Christoph Clergeau, the Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation to the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

The OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was established under the Samoa Agreement, an overarching framework for strengthening political, economic and development cooperation between the EU and the OACPS and for promoting sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, good governance, and mutually beneficial partnerships to address shared global and regional challenges.

Madam President departed Belize on Thursday, 5th November 2026, returned on Sunday, 15th November 2026. Her participation was facilitated by the OACPS.

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