# Belize and European Union Initiate Partnership Dialogue in 2024

**Date**: 2024-05-27

**Location**: Placencia, Belize

## Executive Summary

On May 27, 2024, Belize and the European Union conducted their inaugural Partnership Dialogue in Placencia, marking a new phase under the Samoa Agreement. The discussions focused on enhancing their multifaceted relationship, emphasizing shared values and global issues such as multilateralism, good governance, and human rights. Key topics included development cooperation, updates on the EU’s Global Gateway Investment Agenda, and Belize’s interest in the Schengen visa waiver. The dialogue also addressed regional integration efforts and the ongoing territorial dispute with Guatemala, with the EU supporting confidence-building measures. Co-chaired by Belize’s Foreign Minister Francis Fonseca and EU Ambassador Marianne Van Steen, the meeting underscored a commitment to strengthen partnerships at both regional and multilateral levels.

## Characteristics

* The first Partnership Dialogue between Belize and the EU took place on May 27, 2024, in Placencia, under the Samoa Agreement.
* Discussions focused on development cooperation, including projects under the 11th European Development Fund and new initiatives for green growth and border management.
* The dialogue addressed the EU’s Global Gateway Investment Agenda, aiming to enhance investment in various sectors in Belize.
* Topics included good governance, human rights, regional integration, and Belize’s interest in the Schengen visa waiver.
* The meeting was co-chaired by Belize’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and the EU Ambassador, with participation from various EU member state ambassadors.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | Belize; European Union; Honourable Francis Fonseca; H.E. Marianne Van Steen; H.E. Amalia Mai; Ayesha Borland; Alfonso Gahona; Luis Salazar; Andy Sutherland; Ambassador Johan Verkammen; Zdenĕk Kubánek; Maeve von Heynitz; Alessandro Modiano; Wilfred Mohr; Manuel Carvalho; María Clara Girbau Ronda; Anders Bengtcen; Mr. Sébastien Bulot |
| European Union | Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation; Multilateralism; Digital & Technological Partnerships |
| Data & Governance | Digital Governance; Good Governance |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Investment; Digital Policy |

## Practical Applications

* Implementation of the Partnership Dialogue under the ‘Samoa Agreement’ between Belize and the European Union, focusing on development cooperation and shared values.
* Ongoing projects funded by the 11th European Development Fund, with new initiatives under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) targeting green growth and border management in Belize.
* Updates on regional programs addressing Environment and Climate Change, Trade, and Good Governance that benefit Belize and the Caribbean.
* Implementation of the EU’s Global Gateway Investment Agenda aimed at boosting investment in Belize across sectors such as digital transformation, climate and energy, transport, health, and education.
* Ongoing discussions regarding the EU-Economic Partnership Agreement, including its challenges and opportunities for Belize.
* Support for confidence-building measures in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala in relation to the ongoing case before the International Court of Justice.

## Commitments

No specific quantifiable commitments or targets identified.