



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Call for Expression of Interest

Participation in EU-Sri Lanka Partnership on Connectivity, with focus on maritime sector and port development, under the Global Gateway Investment Hub (GGIH)

1. Introduction

Sri Lanka occupies a strategic position at the heart of the Indian Ocean, along major maritime trade and energy routes linking Europe to Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Maritime connectivity, port infrastructure and logistics are therefore of growing importance for the country's economic recovery, regional integration and long-term competitiveness. In this context, the European Union, together with its Team Europe partners, is interested in supporting sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation with Sri Lanka on connectivity, including maritime transport, logistics and port-related infrastructure.

In particular, Colombo Port has regained political and economic importance as a strategic national asset and driver of connectivity, logistics and trade. Current discussions on the future development of Colombo Port, including private sector participation in the East Container Terminal (ECT), as well as wider plans to expand port and logistics capabilities, create an opportunity to explore a credible European contribution under the Global Gateway framework.

In this context, the European Commission has preliminarily identified maritime connectivity and port capacity development as potential areas for future cooperation with Sri Lanka, including support for port and terminal development, related logistics infrastructure, the efficiency and competitiveness of maritime services, and sustainable, high-quality investment solutions. Against this background, and in view of a possible forthcoming tender process in Sri Lanka, this Call for Expression of Interest is launched to help anticipate opportunities and identify European private sector interest at an early stage, with a view to preparing, where appropriate, a coordinated and comprehensive European offer under Global Gateway.

The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) invites expressions of interest from Team Nationals and European private sector actors willing to contribute to the development of this cooperation agenda.

2. Purpose of the Call

This Call for Expression of Interest invites **Team Nationals and European companies or European-led consortia** to express their interest in supporting the **EU-Sri Lanka cooperation on connectivity, with a particular focus on maritime infrastructure, port capacities and associated logistics development.**

This interest needs to be expressed through a non-binding **concept or project proposal submitted through the Global Gateway Investment Hub (GGIH)** outlining their potential contribution of the interested parties to this cooperation framework.

Expressions of interest received through this call will be assessed in accordance with the [eligibility](#) and [assessment criteria](#) of the [Global Gateway Investment Hub](#). Following the assessment of the proposals received, DG INTPA will reach out to the interested companies and Team National with a view to **developing a detailed coordinated European offer**.

Making a submission in this call:

- does **not constitute any form of partnership, joint venture, or contractual relationship** between the **private sector actor** and the European Commission.
- does **not imply any guarantee of financial support** from the European Commission or partner financial institutions.
- does **not constitute a commitment by the European Commission to finance the project investment proposal**.

All proposals submitted to the European Commission will be assessed based on the criteria outlined in this Call and will be treated **equally and transparently**.

3. Scope of Interest

Expressions of interest should describe the **potential contribution of the interested parties to the development, financing, and/or implementation** of EU-Sri Lanka cooperation on connectivity, with particular emphasis on maritime connectivity and port capacity development.

This consultation invites European private sector companies via Team nationals ⁽¹⁾ to submit proposals focusing on the relevance to connectivity objectives, contribution to maritime and port capacity development, scope for EU private sector engagement and competitiveness, commercial viability, sustainability, and tested Sri Lankan interest. This call is intended to help identify potential areas for a coordinated European offer in support of Sri Lanka's connectivity and logistics ambitions, in line with the EU interests.

Possible areas of interest may include:

- development and upgrading of port and terminal capacities, including container handling and terminal operations;
- associated logistics infrastructure and services linked to port competitiveness and trade facilitation;
- support to the development of Colombo Port as a regional logistics and connectivity hub;
- solutions contributing to efficient, sustainable, transparent and commercially viable port development;

⁽¹⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/235d3d69-c8a8-48cb-8d6a-76f1a3152fef_en?filename=investment-hub-team-nationals-contact-points_en.pdf

- broader maritime connectivity initiatives aligned with Sri Lanka’s role as a strategic Indian Ocean node.

Expressions of interest may be submitted, **via Team Nationals**, by:

- **individual companies**, or
- **industrial consortia composed of multiple companies**.

Entities are encouraged to outline their **technical expertise, experience in maritime transport, ports, logistics and related infrastructure**, and their **proposed role in the project or cooperation framework**. Interested parties may also indicate possible approaches for investment structuring, implementation support, and mobilization of financing, including where relevant blended or guaranteed financing options.

4. Key Information

- Application format: Official GGIH [application form](#)² must be used.
- Deadline for submission of expressions of interest: **Friday 6 November 2026, 18:00 CET**
- Submission: via email to intpa-investment-hub-ceoi@ec.europa.eu by the relevant [Team national](#), with Petros.THEODOROU@ec.europa.eu in copy.

5. Indicative Timeline of the Call

Milestone	Date
Publication of the Call	23 October 2026
Deadline for questions	28 October 2026
Deadline for Expressions of Interest	6 November 2026

This timeline is indicative and may be modified by the European Commission.

6. Confidentiality and Use of Information

Information submitted by participants will be handled in accordance with the applicable EU rules and procedures.

Participants should clearly identify information that they consider commercially sensitive or confidential, where relevant.

The European Commission may use information contained in the Expression of Interest for the purposes of assessing the proposed investment, facilitating dialogue with relevant stakeholders and identifying potential forms of EU/Team Europe support.

7. Disclaimer

This Call for Expressions of Interest is intended to identify potential investment opportunities and facilitate dialogue between interested parties and the European Commission.

² Some parts of the application form might not be relevant to this specific call.

Participation in the Call does not:

- constitute a commitment by the European Commission to provide financial or non-financial support;
- create any legal or contractual relationship between the European Commission and a participant;
- constitute an award procedure, unless expressly stated otherwise;
- guarantee access to EU financing or any specific financial instrument; or
- prejudice any future procurement, grant, financing or other applicable procedure.

Any potential EU financial support will remain subject to the applicable EU legal framework, budgetary availability, eligibility requirements, due diligence, decision-making procedures and contractual conditions.

The European Commission reserves the right to modify, suspend or cancel the Call, or to decide not to proceed with any or all of the proposed investment opportunities, without creating any liability towards participants.

8. Contact

For questions concerning the investment opportunity:

Petros Theodorou, Desk Officer for Sri Lanka and the Maldives

DG INTPA UNIT C2, South and South-East Asia

Email: Petros.THEODOROU@ec.europa.eu

For questions concerning the Global Gateway Investment Hub:

INTPA-INVESTMENT-HUB-CEOI@ec.europa.eu