

Cooperation commitments in the CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement

A BULLET LIST

General Development Provisions:

- Human, legal and institutional capacity building to facilitate ability to comply with EPA commitments
- Capacity and institution building for fiscal reform
- Promoting private sector and enterprise development, in particular small economic operators
- Enhancing the international competitiveness of firms and diversification of economies
- Diversification of exports of goods and services through new investment and the development of new sectors
- Enhancing technological and research capabilities to facilitate development of, and compliance with, internationally recognised sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical standards and internationally recognised labour and environmental standards
- Support for innovation systems, including the development of technological capacity
- Development of infrastructure necessary for the conduct of trade

Environmental cooperation:

- Cooperation on eco-innovation and renewable energy
- Technical assistance in meeting product standards in EU markets
- Facilitation of voluntary schemes including labelling and accreditation schemes
- Technical assistance and capacity building on multilateral environmental agreements including with respect to trade-related aspects
- Facilitation of trade in timber and wood products, from legal and sustainable sources
- Assistance to develop production of goods and services beneficial to the environment
- Public awareness and education programmes in environmental goods and services

Social cooperation:

- The formulation of national social and labour legislation and the strengthening of existing legislation, as well as mechanisms for social dialogue, including measures aimed at promoting the Decent Work Agenda as defined by the ILO

- Educational and awareness-raising programmes, including skills training and policies for labour market adjustment, and raising awareness of health and safety responsibilities, workers' rights and employers' responsibilities
- Enforcement of adherence to national legislation and work regulation, including training and capacity building initiatives of labour inspectors, and promoting corporate social responsibility through public information and reporting.

Customs and Trade facilitation cooperation:

- Enhanced cooperation on customs
- Implementation of the Framework of Standards of the World Customs Organisation.
- Application of modern customs techniques, including risk assessment, advance binding rulings, simplified procedures for entry and release of goods, post release controls and company audit methods;
- Introduction of procedures and practices which reflect as far as practicable, international instruments and standards applicable in the field of customs and trade, including WTO rules and WCO instruments and standards, inter alia the revised Kyoto Convention on the simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures and the WCO Framework of Standard to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade
- Automation of customs and other trade procedures

Agriculture and fisheries cooperation:

- Cooperating to promote the transformation of agricultural, food and fisheries sectors with the aim of increasing their competitiveness, developing their capacity to access high quality markets
- Facilitate the adjustment of the agricultural, food and fisheries sectors and the rural economy, to the progressive changes brought about by this Agreement, while paying particular attention to small scale operations
- Improvement in the competitiveness of potentially viable production, including downstream processing, through innovation, training, promotion of linkages and other support activities, in agricultural and fisheries products, including both traditional and non traditional export sectors
- Development of export marketing capabilities, including market research, both for trade between CARIFORUM States and between the Parties, as well as the identification of options for the improvement of marketing infrastructure and transportation, and the identification of financing and cooperation options for producers and traders
- Compliance with and adoption of quality standards relating to food production and marketing, including standards relating to environmentally and socially sound agricultural practices and organic and non-genetically modified foods
- Promotion of private investment and public-private partnerships in potentially viable Production
- Improvement in the ability of operators to comply with national, regional and international technical, health and quality standards for fish and fish products
- Building or strengthening the scientific and technical human and institutional capability at regional level for sustainable trade in fisheries products, including aquaculture

Competitiveness and Innovation cooperation:

- Promotion of innovation, diversification, modernisation, development and product and process quality in businesses
- Promotion of creativity and design, particularly in micro, small and medium enterprises, and exchanges between networks of design centres
- Promotion of dialogue and exchanges of experience and information between networks of economic operators
- Technical assistance, conferences, seminars, exchange visits, prospecting for industrial and technical opportunities, participation in round tables and general and sectoral trade fairs
- Promotion of contacts and industrial cooperation between economic operators, encouraging joint investment and ventures and networks through existing and future programs
- Promotion of partnerships for research and development activities to improve innovation systems
- Intensification of activities to promote linkages, innovation and technology transfer

Technical Barriers to Trade cooperation:

- Establishment of the appropriate arrangements for the sharing of expertise, including appropriate training intended to ensure adequate and enduring technical competence of the relevant standard setting, metrology, accreditation, market surveillance and conformity assessment bodies
- Development of centres of expertise for the assessment of goods for the purpose of such goods access into the EC market
- Development of the capacity of enterprises to meet regulatory and market requirements
- Developing and adopting harmonised technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures based on relevant international standards

Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures

- Capacity building activities to reinforce regional monitoring, implementation and enforcement of SPS measures
- Expertise sharing, training and information for regulatory personnel (Public and private sector partnerships may be supported)
- Capacity development for the private sector to meet regulatory and market requirements.
- Cooperation in international bodies
- Training and information events for regulatory personnel to address issues of plant, animal and public health

Investment, trade in services and e-commerce

- Improving the export capacity of service suppliers, with particular attention to the marketing of tourism and cultural services, the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises, franchising and the negotiation of mutual recognition agreements
- Improving the ability of service suppliers of the Signatory CARIFORUM States to gather information on and to meet regulations and standards of the EC Party at European Community, national and sub-national levels

- Facilitating interaction and dialogue between service suppliers of the EC Party and of the Signatory CARIFORUM States
- Addressing quality and standards needs in those sectors where the Signatory CARIFORUM States have undertaken commitments under this Agreement and with respect to their domestic and regional markets as well as trade between the Parties, and in order to ensure participation in the development and adoption of sustainable tourism standards
- Developing and implementing regulatory regimes for specific service sectors at CARIFORUM regional level and in Signatory CARIFORUM States in those sectors where they have undertaken commitments under this Agreement
- Establishing mechanisms for promoting investment and joint ventures between service suppliers of the EC Party and of the Signatory CARIFORUM States, and enhancing the capacities of investment promotion agencies in Signatory CARIFORUM States

Special provisions on tourism sector

- Endeavour to facilitate the transfer of technology on a commercial basis
- Endeavour to facilitate the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism services sector
- Encourage the participation of CARIFORUM services suppliers in international, regional, sub-regional, bilateral and private financing programs to support the sustainable development of tourism
- Upgrading of national accounting systems with a view to facilitating the introduction of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) at the regional and local level
- Facilitate the participation of the Signatory CARIFORUM States in relevant international organisations setting environmental and quality standards applicable to tourism services.
- Capacity building for environmental management in tourism areas at the regional and local level
- Development of Internet marketing strategies for small and medium-sized tourism enterprises in the tourism services sector
- Mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of Signatory CARIFORUM States in international standard setting bodies focused on sustainable tourism standards development
- Programmes to achieve and ensure equivalency between national/regional and international standards for sustainable tourism; and programmes aimed at increasing the level of compliance with sustainable tourism standards by regional tourism services suppliers
- Tourism exchange programs and training, including language training, for tourism services providers

Competition law

- Capacity building to ensure the efficient functioning of the CARIFORUM Competition Authorities
- Assistance in drafting guidelines, manuals and, where necessary, legislation
- The provision of independent experts
- The provision of training for key personnel involved in the implementation of and enforcement of competition policy

Innovation and intellectual property

- Promotion of innovation, diversification, modernisation, development and product and process quality in businesses
- Promotion of creativity and design, particularly in micro, small and medium enterprises, and exchanges between networks of design centres
- Promotion of dialogue and exchanges of experience and information between networks of economic operators
- Technical assistance, conferences, seminars, exchange visits, prospecting for industrial and technical opportunities, participation in round tables and general and sectoral trade fairs
- Promotion of contacts and industrial cooperation between economic operators
- Encouraging joint investment and ventures and networks through existing and future programs
- Promotion of partnerships for research and development activities
- Intensification of activities to promote linkages, innovation and technology transfer

Specific cooperation in science and technology:

- Special emphasis will be put on human potential building as a long-lasting basis of scientific and technological excellence and the creation of sustainable links between the scientific and technological communities of the Parties, at both national and regional levels
- Research centres, higher-education institutions, and other stakeholders, including micro, small and medium enterprises, located in the Parties shall be involved in this cooperation as appropriate

Information and Communications Technology and information society

- Dialogue on the various policy aspects regarding the promotion and monitoring of the information society;
- Exchange of information on regulatory issues
- Exchange of information on standards and interoperability issues
- Promotion of cooperation in the field of ICT research and development and in the field of ICT-based research infrastructures
- Development of non-commercial content and pilot applications in domains of high societal impact
- ICT capacity-building with, in particular, the promotion of networking, exchange and training of specialists, especially in the regulatory domain.

Eco innovation and renewable energy

- Projects related to environmentally-friendly products, technologies, production processes, services, management and business methods, including those related to appropriate water-saving and Clean Development Mechanism applications
- Projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Promotion of eco-innovation networks and clusters, including through public-private partnerships
- Exchanges of information, know-how and experts
- Awareness-raising and training activities
- Preparation of studies and provision of technical assistance

- Collaboration in research and development; and pilot and demonstration projects.

Intellectual Property

- Improve regional intellectual property regulatory capacity in CARIFORUM countries and support the regional implementation of intellectual property commitments undertaken under TRIPS and any other international treaties they are party to
- Support in the preparation of national laws and regulations for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights
- Support for the establishment and reinforcement of domestic offices and other agencies in the field of intellectual property rights, including the training of personnel on enforcement
- Identification of products that could benefit from protection as geographical indications and any other action aimed at achieving protection as geographical indications for these products
- Development by trade or professional associations or organisations of codes of conduct aimed at contributing towards the enforcement of intellectual property rights

Support for implementation of new public procurement rules

- Exchange of experience and information about best practices and regulatory frameworks
- Establishment and maintenance of appropriate systems and mechanisms
- Creation of an on-line facility at the regional level for the effective dissemination of information on tendering opportunities, so as to facilitate the awareness of all companies about procurement processes

Technical assistance to help set up the legislative and administrative framework in the data protection sector

- Exchange of information and expertise
- Assistance in drafting legislation, guidelines and manuals
- Provision of training for key personnel
- Assistance with the establishment and functioning of relevant institutional frameworks
- Assistance with the design and implementation of compliance initiatives aimed at economic operators and consumers in order to stimulate investor and public confidence

Cultural cooperation

- Facilitate the training of, and increased contacts between artists and other cultural professionals and practitioners
- Technical assistance for the development of cultural industries, development and implementation of cultural policies, and in promoting the production and exchange of cultural goods and services
- Training, exchange of information, expertise and experiences, and counselling in elaboration of policies and legislation as well as in usage and transfer of technologies and know-how
- Facilitate the cooperation between private companies, non-governmental organisations as well as public-private partnerships

Audio-visual, including cinematographic, cooperation

- Facilitate the access of co-productions between EU and Cariforum producers
- Facilitate support through the organisation of festivals, seminars and similar initiatives
- Co-produced audiovisual works shall benefit from the preferential market access to the EU
- Cooperate to develop the use of international and regional standards in order to ensure compatibility and interoperability of audio-visual technologies
- Facilitate the digitalisation of audio-visual archives

Performing arts

- Facilitating increased contacts between practitioners of performing arts in areas such as professional exchanges and training, inter alia participation in auditions, development of networks and promotion of networking
- Encourage joint productions in the fields of performing arts
- Development of international theatre technology standards and the use of theatre stage signs, including through appropriate standardisation bodies

Publications

- Organisation of fairs, seminars, literary events and other similar events related to publications, including public reading mobile structures
- Facilitating co-publishing and translations
- Facilitating professional exchanges and training for librarians, writers, translators, booksellers and publishers

Special provisions on bananas

- Activities aimed at increasing the productivity and competitiveness in areas of viable production
- The development of alternatives both within and outside the banana industry
- Addressing social impact arising from changes in the sector and for disaster mitigation

Facilitation of cooperation in all areas of the agreement with the OCTs