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MILESTONE IS ON THE HORIZON

regarding the implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), with the convening on 26 October of the Second Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (JC) in Brussels. The JC, which meets at least every two years, is the highest of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Institutions. It meets at Ministerial level, and is vested with responsibility to supervise the implementation of the EPA. The JC met in inaugural session on 17 May
2010 in Madrid, Spain. The Rules of Procedure of the JC were adopted at that time, and other important decisions taken. Since then, considerable headway has been made with respect to operationalizing the other Joint Institutions. As the implementation of the EPA has unfolded, a variety of developments thereto have been the focus of engagements between the CARIFORUM and EU sides in the context of the Joint Institutions. The upcoming Meeting of the JC presents a propitious, high-level opportunity for the two sides to address a number of issues requiring their attention. As it has all along prior to meeting with the EU, the CARIFORUM side meets in preparatory session to consult on positions. This will be the case, yet again, in the lead up to the JC. A CARIFORUM Ministerial Caucus will take place on 12 October. This Caucus of Ministers responsible for EPA matters is being convened by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat. This follows consultations with the incumbent Chair of CARIFORUM, Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry of the Dominican Republic, as well as recent indications by the Secretariat—i.e. during the CARIFORUM Preparatory Session for the Second Meeting of the Trade and Development Committee (TDC)—of plans for such a preparatory session for Ministers to be held in the Region ahead of the Second Meeting of the JC. On the occasion of the Caucus, there will be an exchange of views on the issues to be taken up at the JC, with particular attention being paid to the issues on which CARIFORUM is seeking decisions and to CARIFORUM's strategic approach to the conduct of the JC. Thereafter there will be another opportunity for the CARIFORUM side to meet in preparatory session, with the latter being held immediately ahead of the JC. Drawing on the perspective of the CARICOM Secretariat, this Special Issue calls attention to the JC and some recent preparatory steps that have paved the way for its convening. A Special Feature also appears in the pages of this Special Issue, serving to shine the spotlight on an issue of consequence for the Region: ‘graduation’ or ‘differentiation’. The Special Feature lends CARICOM Secretariat perspective on the issue; a policy direction adopted by some in the international community which is of concern to Caribbean States. As is the norm, a News Briefs section also appears.

The cover of this Special Issue is a depiction of the JC and the coming engagement of the two sides therein, while calling attention to the issue of ‘graduation’ or ‘differentiation’. EPA Implementation Bulletin’s editorial team welcomes your feedback. Please send any comments or suggestions to nbardouille@caricom.org

This Issue of EPA Implementation Bulletin focuses attention on the Second Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (JC) and some recent preparatory meetings that have set the stage for its convening on 26 October. The CARIFORUM Region has arrived at an important juncture in the implementation journey of the EPA thus far. As the highest of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Institutions which oversee the implementation of the EPA, the JC affords the Region an important opportunity to raise a number of pressing matters with the EU which have very real effects on the implementation of the EPA. The CARIFORUM Region is, therefore, very much looking forward to the JC. This Special Issue highlights both the significance of the event and aspects of the preparatory process in the lead up to it. In addition, it calls attention to the issue of ‘graduation’ or ‘differentiation’, from a CARICOM vantage point. The position taken by some international development partners on this issue is of great concern for the Region.

We offer this edition with the hope that the analysis featured will be of interest and of value to the publication’s readership.

Branford Isaacs
Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the EPA
CARIFORUM, EU Conclude "Successful" Meeting of EPA Trade and Development Committee

The Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) and the European Union (EU) convened the Second Meeting of the Trade and Development Committee (TDC) under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 27 September. Both sides characterized the intensive one-day Meeting as “successful.”

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Peter Thompson of the European Commission, on behalf of the EU. He also headed the EU delegation. The CARIFORUM delegation was led by Ms Miguelina Estevez, a Senior Official of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Dominican Republic, which currently holds the Chairmanship of the CARIFORUM regional bloc.

The TDC crafted a number of joint decisions for adoption by the Second Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (JC) which will be held in Brussels on 26 October, but recognized that agreement was not possible in some areas at this time.

In reflecting on the ground covered during the TDC, Mr Thompson pointed to a “positive balance sheet.”
“Both sides characterized the intensive one-day [TDC] Meeting as “successful.”"

Among the areas in which agreement was achieved at the TDC were the following:

(i) The incorporation of the commitments of The Bahamas into Annex IV of the EPA which addresses Investment, Trade in Services and E-commerce;

(ii) The admission of the Caribbean Export Development Agency as a permanent observer of the TDC;

(iii) The approach to arriving at a list of arbitrators;

(iv) The establishment of membership of the Consultative Committee, an Institution that provides a platform for insertion of civil society in EPA implementation.

While there was agreement on submitting certain items for endorsement by the JC, some issues will be subject to further negotiations as they were not resolved.

At the TDC consideration was given to a number of issues related to trade under the EPA, and good progress was made in clarifying positions.

With respect to Development Cooperation, CARIFORUM reiterated its commitment to regional cooperation and integration. In addition, CARIFORUM reported that projects have been identified with respect to 82% of resources under the Regional Indicative Programme of the 10th European Development Funds (EDF).

“While there was agreement on submitting certain items for endorsement by the JC, some issues will be subject to further negotiations as they were not resolved.”

CARIFORUM raised the issue of differentiation and expressed concern with this EU policy position, noting that negative movement in the quantum of resources made available under the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) may add to the challenges that the Region faces given its limited resources. CARIFORUM stressed that
Regarding monitoring implementation of the EPA, the EU and CARIFORUM acknowledged that monitoring is enshrined in the Agreement and is critical to achieving its development goals. CARIFORUM indicated that it has been involved in a range of consultations to identify a regional organization which would undertake the task of monitoring, an exercise which would also call for activity at national level, including the generation of data. There will be effort to advance the process towards undertaking monitoring by the time of the meeting of the JC in October.

In concluding the TDC both sides indicated that they are looking forward to the next meeting of the JC, which is the highest of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Institutions which oversee the implementation of the EPA.

“CARIFORUM raised the issue of differentiation and expressed concern with this EU policy position, noting that negative movement in the quantum of resources made available under the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) may add to the challenges that the Region faces given its limited resources. CARIFORUM stressed that the action of the EU in the area of differentiation impacts on the Region’s capacity to implement the EPA. The EU took note of the statement by CARIFORUM and agreed that Ministers at the JC must have an opportunity to exchange views on the implications of differentiation for the Region’s economic development and its capacity to implement the EPA.”
CARIFORUM and the 2nd EPA TDC Meeting

Trinidad and Tobago hosted the Second Meeting of the Trade and Development Committee (TDC) under the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM)-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on 27 September.

A preparatory meeting of CARIFORUM Officials was convened ahead of the TDC, and it was also also held in Trinidad and Tobago.

“The TDC provided both the CARIFORUM and EU sides the opportunity to address a range of pressing matters ahead of the next meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council,” said the CARIFORUM Coordinator and Director-General of the CARIFORUM Directorate, Mr Ivan Ogando Lora.

Matters discussed at the TDC related heavily to Trade in Goods and Trade in Services, but other areas covered by the EPA were also on the agenda. These included Data Protection, Public Procurement, Competition and Geographical Indications. There was an exchange of views on development cooperation. The EU reconfirmed that development co-operation was an essential element of the EPA. In addition, differentiation was the subject of concern on the part of CARIFORUM. The CARIFORUM side underscored differentiation and its potential implications for CARIFORUM States’ capacity to implement the EPA. The Meeting also discus-
Official Visit of CARIFORUM DG to the Dominican Republic

The Director-General of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) Directorate, Mr Ivan Ogando Lora, was recently on an official visit to the Dominican Republic. Mr Ogando’s trip to this CARIFORUM State came against the backdrop of its assumption of the Chairmanship of CARIFORUM from 1 July 2012, a position it will hold until 30 June 2013. The visit, which took place from 3-4 September, was mounted on behalf of the Secretary-General of CARIFORUM Ambassador Irwin La Rocque.

Mr Ogando was accompanied by senior aides, including Mr Branford Isaacs Adviser to the Secretary-General in the Implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU).

Mr Ogando and his delegation met with top level Government Officials on key strategic and operational issues relating to EPA implementation and the task ahead including the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Carlos Morales Troncoso and the Minister of Trade and Industry H.E. José Del Castillo Saviñón. Meetings were also held with Vice-Minister for Trade Negotiations Mr César Dargam, the new National Authorizing Officer, Mr Antonio Vargas, and the Deputy Director of Customs, Mr Eduardo Rodriguez.

Mr Ogando pointed out that “the Dominican Republic has assumed the Chairmanship of the regional bloc at a crucial juncture, coming as it does ahead of pivotal meetings of two Joint CARIFORUM-EU Institutions under the EPA. As such, the aim of the visit of my team and I to the Dominican Republic was to have an exchange of views on a range of matters of which the Region is seized going into the aforementioned meetings and the top priorities with respect to issues that are to be taken up in the agendas of those meetings.” He described the meetings with authorities in the Dominican Repub-
Mr Ogando underscored that, “on the whole, the meetings were very productive and cordial. The authorities in the Dominican Republic reaffirmed their commitment to playing their part in enhancing regional cooperation and coordination, within the framework of CARIFORUM.”

“Mr Ogando and his delegation met with top level Government Officials on key strategic and operational issues relating to EPA implementation and the task ahead....He described the meetings with authorities in the Dominican Republic as “having touched on and advanced the Region’s positions with respect to a range of pressing matters.””

The visit was propitious because a new administration has come to power in that country. It was also timely from the standpoint of recent developments in and milestones on the horizon in respect of EPA implementation.

“[Mr Ogando’s visit] was also timely from the standpoint of recent developments in and milestones on the horizon in respect of EPA implementation.”

On 27 September the Second Meeting of the CARIFORUM-EU Trade and Development Committee (TDC) was convened in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Further to that Meeting, on 26 October the Second Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (JC) is to be held in Brussels. The JC is the highest Institution, which meets at Ministerial level. It is vested with responsibility to supervise the implementation of the EPA. TDC meetings of Officials of both the CARIFORUM and EU sides take place prior to the JC, so as to prepare the ground for meetings of the latter.
CARIFORUM moves to Ensure Non-State Actors’ Participation in EPA

The Caribbean Forum of African Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) is moving to finalise its team for its side of the Consultative Committee with the European Union (EU). The Committee is one of the five institutions required under the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

A Meeting in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 11 and 12 September brought together the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat-based CARIFORUM Directorate and representatives of CARIFORUM non-State actors to assist in determining the make-up of the team.

The Meeting was funded by resources from the EU’s 10th European Development Fund (EDF), made available by the Caribbean Export Development Agency, as well as the UK Department for International Development (DFID), through the Caribbean Aid for Trade and Regional Integration Trust Fund (CARTFund).

Four of the five Joint CARIFORUM-EU Institutions have to date been established, to facilitate implementation of the EPA. The CARIFORUM-EU Consultative Committee is the last to come on stream. It is designed for the engagement of civil society in the EPA implementation process.

The Director-General of the CARIFORUM Directorate, Mr Ivan Ogando Lora, said of the Consultative Committee, “it is intended as a formal platform for civil society to lend its voice to the EPA implementation process, which we have an interest in making as inclusive as possible with respect to the stakeholders involved.” He further noted, “while, regrettably, the pace at which the slate of CARIFORUM representatives on the Consultative Committee is being worked out has been slower than any of us would have hoped, I am happy to report that we are now on the cusp of bringing this effort to fruition. The meeting with CARIFORUM non-State actors on 11 and 12 September has paved the way for the crystallization of the Consultative Committee.”

The CARICOM Secretariat has been conducting consultations towards presenting a slate of CARIFORUM representatives to the Consultative Committee for approval by the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council, which as the highest of the Joint Institutions is charged with deciding on participation with a view to ensuring a broad repre-
presentation of all interested parties. To that end, the Secretariat had invited certain civil society organizations to indicate an interest in serving on the Consultative Committee, and those that responded positively were invited to the Port of Spain Meeting.

“[Mr Ogando] said of the Consultative Committee, “it is intended as a formal platform for civil society to lend its voice to the EPA implementation process, which we have an interest in making as inclusive as possible with respect to the stakeholders involved.”...."The meeting with CARIFORUM non-State actors on 11 and 12 September has paved the way for the crystallization of the Consultative Committee.””

The Meeting discussed the role and functions of the Consultative Committee, whilst providing for a briefing of civil society participants. The briefing provided an overview of the state-of-play of the implementation of the EPA, in an effort to provide participants with an awareness of the provisions and an appreciation of the implication of the implementation of these provisions.

“The CARICOM Secretariat has been conducting consultations towards presenting a slate of CARIFORUM representatives to the Consultative Committee for approval by the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council.”
CARICOM Leaders at the UN Speak Out Against Graduation from Development Assistance

Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) placed emphasis on the deleterious impact of the global economic and financial crisis on the economies of the Member States of the Community during their statements at the 67th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The Leaders of Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines addressed the forum at the UN Headquarters, New York, USA and stressed that their critical economic situation was being compounded by the advent of "graduation" or "differentiation" in which most CARICOM Member States, categorised as Middle Income Countries (MICS), were increasingly denied access to concessionary funding and development assistance. The Community has been lobbying actively for quite some time against "graduation" and the related arbitrary categorization by international development partners based on their relatively high per capita income but which ignores debilitating variables such as vulnerability and high debt burdens.

"[In their statements at the 67th United Nations General Assembly, some CARICOM States] stressed that their critical economic situation was being compounded by the advent of "graduation" or "differentiation"."

The challenges of climate change, sustainable development and crime and security were also commonly treated themes. In this latter regard the Heads of Government voiced their concern over the inability of the international community to conclude the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which by regularising the trade in small arms and light weapons would facilitate the battle against arms trafficking, a major contributing factor to rising armed crime in the region.
CARICOM Foreign Ministers were also active during the UNGA week, convening the annual Informal Consultations of CARICOM’s Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) during which they debated the major themes and issues on the Assembly’s agenda that were of special interest to the Community in order to co-ordinate positions. These issues included the follow-up action regarding the High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases which took place at the UNGA last year and which was spearheaded by the Community, an update on the longstanding efforts to reform the UN Security Council and on the outcome of the recent Negotiating Conference on the ATT.

The Council also looked at the formalization of the Green Fund, a financial mechanism established at the 16th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to help developing countries undertake climate change adaptation and mitigation activities and received an update on the construction of a Permanent Memorial to the Abolition of the Slave Trade on which the CARICOM Permanent Representatives to the UN in New York play a leading role. The Foreign Ministers deliberated over the process of change in the Middle East and North Africa and the resulting new challenges and also reviewed and endorsed CARICOM candidatures as well as requests from Third States for support for their candidatures.

In preparation for the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) which took place in the margins of the UNGA, the Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on the activities of this new integration process and their implications for the Community. The Council was addressed by the Foreign Ministers of Australia and Spain whose countries are active international development partners of the Community, and the Foreign Minister of Cuba who touched on the scheduled future meeting of CARICOM-Cuba Foreign Ministers.

At a meeting with their Nordic counterparts (Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland) matters of mutual concern were discussed including the increasing impact of climate change (rising sea levels and the accelerating melting of the polar caps), the delay in concluding the ATT, alternative energy, high debt levels and sustainable development on which both shared their disappointment over the lack of commitment by the major economies in the outcome of the recent Rio+20 Conference. The Foreign Ministers took the opportunity to request the support of their Nordic colleagues in the Community’s on-going lobby with regard to the Region’s position on provisions in the Union’s draft policy paper on development assistance. The draft development policy is being debated by the EU currently and if accepted in its present form, would cut off Middle Income Countries from EU development assistance. Most CARICOM Member States are categorised as MICS.

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**Quotables**

“[The Second Meeting of the Trade and Development Committee (TDC) was] “successful.”

— CARIFORUM and EU sides at the Second Meeting of the TDC, 27 September, Trinidad and Tobago

In reflecting on the ground covered during the TDC, Mr Thompson pointed to a “positive balance sheet.”

— Mr Peter Thompson, European Commission, and head of the EU delegation at the Second Meeting of the TDC, 27 September, Trinidad and Tobago

“The Second Meeting of the TDC provided both the CARIFORUM and EU sides the opportunity to address a range of pressing matters ahead of the next meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council.”

— CARIFORUM Coordinator and Director-General of the CARIFORUM Directorate, Mr Ivan Ogando Lora
CARICOM SG has busy Week at the UN and Draws attention to EU Development Assistance, Differentiation

Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ambassador Irwin LaRocque used the opportunity of the High Level Debate of the 67th Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at UN headquarters, New York, USA, to hold a number of side meetings.

A number of CARICOM Heads of Government spoke at the Debate including those of Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The Secretary-General also joined the CARICOM Heads of Government at a meeting with the UN Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, at which they raised concerns over the need for greater UN engagement with CARICOM. The CARICOM team brought to Mr Ban’s attention the prevailing economic situation of the Community resulting from the global economic crisis and the issue of "graduation" which has adversely affected CARICOM Member States.

They also emphasised the need for special focus on and support for small-island and low-lying developing states with regard to the disproportionate impact of climate change on them. The Heads of Government further raised the issue of sustainable development as well as UN follow-up to last year’s High Level UNGA Meeting on Non Communicable Diseases initiated by the Caribbean Community and the shortage of CARICOM nationals at a senior level at the UN.

"The CARICOM team brought to Mr Ban’s attention the prevailing economic situation of the Community resulting from the global economic crisis and the issue of "graduation" which has adversely affected CARICOM Member States.”
For his part, the UNSG commended the Community for the leadership role it played at the Rio+20 Conference and for the increasing integration of Haiti into the Community symbolised by Haiti’s chairing of the Community as of January 2013. In response to the concerns voiced by Heads of Government, he indicated his intention to have the UN more engaged and responsive to the needs of the Community.

The Secretary-General met with the Prime Minister of Spain, the Honourable Mariano Rajoy, at the invitation of the latter, and called for the support of Spain within the councils of the European Union (EU) to advocate on behalf of the Community with regard to the effect on the Region of certain provisions in the Union’s draft policy paper on development assistance.

The draft development policy is being debated by the EU currently and if accepted in its present formulation, would sever CARICOM’s Middle Income States from EU development assistance. Through differentiation most CARICOM Member States are categorised as Middle Income Countries (MICS) because of their relatively high per capita income levels and will be denied access to concessionary funding and development assistance from International Development Partners.

"The Secretary-General met with the Prime Minister of Spain, the Honourable Mariano Rajoy, at the invitation of the latter, and called for the support of Spain within the councils of the European Union (EU) to advocate on behalf of the Community with regard to the effect on the Region of certain provisions in the Union’s draft policy paper on development assistance."

This on-going expression of the Region’s concerns was re-enforced by CARICOM Foreign Ministers at a working lunch with their Nordic counterparts (Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland) during which they requested their support on the issue of "differentiation" within the EU.

As a member of the group Political Champions for Disaster Resilience, which was established by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ambassador LaRocque took part in its second meeting to which he was accompanied by the Executive Director of Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Mr Jeremy Collymore. The meeting examined among other things the importance of resilience in disaster management.

Secretary-General LaRocque joined the Foreign Minister of Guyana, the Honourable Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, who is current Chairperson of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the sub-regional extension of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to meet with the Director of ECLAC Her Excellency Alicia Bárcena. They sought to enlist the continued support of her organization with regard to improving the capacity of the Community in gathering and analysing data and statistics as well as to deepen the analysis of the Community’s intra-regional and external trade. They also requested technical assistance from ECLAC with regard to the Community’s efforts to elaborate on the concept of “vulnerability”, one of the major countervailing arguments advanced by the Community in arguing against “graduation” and “differentiation” of its Member States.
News Briefs

ACP on 'Graduation'

A recent ACP Secretariat Press Release stated that the Group is concerned “over the inclusion of a differentiated approach towards aid in the European Commission’s Agenda for Change.” The ACP Secretary General, Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, has said “the inclusion of the element of graduation, linked to a differentiated approach with respect to access to resources, in our view is not within the spirit of the Second Revision of Cotonou [ACP-EU Partnership Agreement].” The Press Release further noted that specific vulnerabilities with respect to Small Island Developing States are not captured in the economic classification of countries. Caribbean countries loom large, in this regard.

The ACP Group has called on the European Union to “reconsider any measures that might appear unilateral or that would modify the legal framework of the 2010 revised Cotonou Agreement.”

For details, please refer to: http://www.acp.int/content/press-release-acp-concerned-about-graduation-differentiation-eu-aid-policy

ACP Secretary General reacts to European Parliament vote on Market Access Regulation 1528/2007

The Secretary General of the ACP, Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, on 13 September said that the European Parliament's vote to extend the proposed deadline for conclusion of EPAs with respect to those ACP countries that have as yet to do so is “prudent.”

“The European Parliament has shown wise political judgment in extending the period for negotiation of EPAs to 1 January 2016. Negotiating the EPAs is a complicated process, involving a number of very complex and diverse issues which can impact heavily on our developing economies. It requires careful and thorough discussions, without the pressure of unreasonable deadlines,” he stated, in the wake of the parliamentarians' decision in Strasbourg.

For details, please refer to: http://www.acp.int/content/press-release-acp-secretary-general-reacts-european-parliament-vote-market-access-regulation

Suriname Gears Up to Host Joint ACP-EU Parliament Meeting

Suriname will host the 24th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in November. The full agenda for the Joint Parliamentary Assembly session is to be made available in the coming weeks. Updates and documents may be downloaded from ACP-EU website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/INTCOOP/ACP/10_01/default_en.htm

For details on the Joint Parliamentary Assembly's convening, please refer to: http://www.acp.int/content/suriname-gears-host-joint-acp-eu-parliament-meeting

The 29th ACP Parliamentary Assembly will precede the Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

In related news, according to an ACP Secretariat Press Release members of Parliament from the ACP met in Brussels in late September "to discuss issues perti-
ment to their countries and prepare for the upcoming Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly." The Press Release also noted that the ACP parliamentarians "discussed the issue of differentiation, which is included in the EU Commission’s policy proposal on development cooperation known as Agenda for Change. This proviso linking aid delivery to national economic levels would mean a sharp reduction or complete removal of grant aid to High Income and Upper Middle Income ACP countries, while focussing resources to the least developed."

For details, please refer to: http://www.acp.int/content/acp-politicians-talk-trade-eu-aid-agenda-brussels

Informational Note

In the context of the implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, the First Meeting of the CARIFORUM-EU Parliamentary Committee was held on 14 June 2011 in Brussels.

Article 231 of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA establishes a CARIFORUM-EU Parliamentary Committee consisting of "members of the European Parliament, on the one hand, and of Members of the CARIFORUM States legislatures, on the other." Paragraph 1 of Article 231 states that "it shall be a forum for members of the European Parliament and the CARIFORUM States legislatures to meet and exchange views". The Parliamentary Committee may request of the JC relevant information regarding the implementation of the Agreement and may make recommendations to the JC and the CARIFORUM-EU Trade and Development Committee.

Pacific Officials Meet with EU to Progress EPA Negotiations

It was reported recently that in early October, Senior Officials and trade negotiators from the Pacific ACP (PACP) States met with the European Commission in Brussels to advance on the negotiation of their EPA with the EU. For details, please refer to: http://www.acp.int/content/pacific-officials-meet-eu-progress-epa-negotiations

For a related story, please refer to: http://www.acp.int/content/press-release-acp-chief-welcomes-pacific-leaders-commitment-conclude-trade-talks-eu

ACP Trade Officials Tackle how to Focus WTO Talks on Development

The High Level Forum on Emerging Issues and Challenges in the Multilateral Trading System took place in Nairobi, Kenya in mid-September. The Forum was organised by the ACP-EU Multilateral Trading System programme and the ACP Secretariat, and was geared at Trade Directors in ACP States as well as Ambassadors of ACP missions to the WTO.

According to an ACP Secretariat Press Release, the Forum "allowed trade officials from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific to address key issues from the WTO Ministerial Conference held last year, as well as new development challenges related to trade." It was further stated that "[t]he forum is expected to yield recommendations for ACP countries to ensure development remains at the core of multilateral trade negotiations."

For details, please refer to: http://www.acp.int/content/acp-trade-officials-tackle-how-focus-wto-talks-development
Calendar

- 27 September 2012: Second Meeting of the Trade and Development Committee under the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Trinidad and Tobago
- 26 October 2012: Second Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council, Brussels
- 12-13 November 2012: Regional Media Workshop on the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, Grenada

Forthcoming Issue Notification

- Volume 2(No.6)—The Issue calls attention to a variety of matters germane to EPA Implementation.