MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
as represented by the
AUSTRIAN STATE SECRETARY FOR
EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

AND

THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
as represented by its
SECRETARY-GENERAL

hereinafter referred to as “the Partners”

CONSIDERING

That the EU-LAC Summit in Vienna, held in May 2006 has fostered relations between Austria and the Caribbean region. As an outcome of the summit, Austria has expressed her willingness to enter into a partnership with the Caribbean Region.

That the Austrian Federal Government is willing to support the promotion of the regional development process among CARICOM Member States through a Partnership with CARICOM, focusing on comprehensive disaster management, sustainable energy and energy security.

That CARICOM is a regional organization, challenged by regional environmental and sustainable development issues, that has set a high priority to addressing climate change and related issues including sustainable energy, energy security and comprehensive disaster management, and to supporting regional efforts aimed at the strengthening of its Member States through international cooperation and sustainable development projects.

That climate change issues affect the countries in the Caribbean region and comprehensive disaster management and prevention measures are of high importance for these countries.

That energy security is equally relevant due to the region’s dependence on fossil fuels. However, renewable energy measures represent unexploited possibilities because they permit the use of alternative methods that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas...
emissions which contribute significantly to climate change, as well as reduce the
vulnerability of the energy sector to the high level of uncertainty in energy supply.

That on the basis of the foregoing the Partners have decided to hereby jointly establish
Technical and Scientific Cooperaiton between Austria and CARICOM.

The Partners have reached the following understanding:

General Objective

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is being signed by the Partners with the
objective to establish a framework for cooperation in projects which take into account
the priorities set within CARICOM and which shall contribute to improving the quality
of life of the Community's peoples and develop the human resources and technical
capacity of CARICOM.

Areas of Cooperation

2. The Partners will cooperate generally in areas of mutual interest. However, the initial
areas of focus are those related to comprehensive disaster management and the
promotion of sustainable energy and energy security. However, this Memorandum of
Understanding does not inhibit on-going or future Austrian cooperation in other areas
not covered herein.

General Responsibilities of the Partners

3. The main responsibilities for each Partner are defined as follows:

(i) The Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs is the
donor and will provide funds for the implementation of projects. For this
purpose, it will assign a budget to the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
which will administer the direct or indirect allocation of these funds for agreed-
on projects in the Caribbean region.

(ii) The CARICOM Secretariat (the Secretariat) will propose projects to ADA in
the agreed areas and is consequently responsible for the activities related to
the financial and operational management of funds directly channelled to the
Secretariat for agreed-upon projects.

Application and Project Activities

4. The Project Activities will be defined in more detail in (a) separate Agreement(s) on
Technical Cooperation between ADA and the Secretariat.
Other Responsibilities

5. The actual implementation of the projects and responsibilities will be specified in the Agreement(s) on Technical Cooperation to be established and signed by ADA and the Secretariat.

Administrative arrangements

6. The Secretariat will request that CARICOM Member States, to the extent permitted by domestic legislation, exempt all agreed upon materials and goods necessary for the implementation of agreed-upon projects from import taxes or other public contributions and facilitate expeditious release of goods.

Information

7. The Secretariat and the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs will promptly inform each other of any event or situation which might affect the implementation of the activities and which may necessitate a modification or alteration of the scope, implementation or other aspects of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Secretariat will in all its publications and reports concerning the approved and funded projects specifically mention that Austria has provided financial resources for the activities.

Management of the contribution

8. The Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs entrusts ADA with the administration of the Austrian contribution. The direct or indirect allocation of these funds will be managed by ADA according to the projects jointly agreed-upon. Other operative management procedures will be detailed in the specific Agreement(s) on Technical Cooperation to be signed by the Secretariat and ADA.

Representatives of the Ministry

9. The Secretariat will cooperate with the officers or designated representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs in any preparation, review or evaluation missions or other activities relating to the implementation of the activities of this Understanding and the Agreement(s) on Technical Cooperation between the Secretariat and ADA.
Settlement of Disputes

10. The Partners will endeavour to settle amicably through negotiation any differences or disputes arising from or relating to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Entry into Effect, Amendments and Termination

11. This Memorandum of Understanding takes effect from the date of signature and will remain effective for an indefinite period of time, unless terminated in accordance with Clause 13 hereof.

12. Any amendment or modification to this Memorandum of Understanding will be effected by the written consent of both Partners.

13. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Partner giving six (6) months written notice. The Partners will consult to determine how any outstanding matters should be dealt with. Termination will not affect the validity of any contract made under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done at New York, this 27th day of September 2008

State Secretary Dr. Hans Winkler
On behalf of the Austrian Federal Government

Secretary-General Dr. Edwin Carrington
On behalf of the Caribbean Community