

## CARIFORUM EPA

SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA

### IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

NEWSLETTER 12 APRIL 2017

In July the programme reached the six-month implementation period. As a result the Contractor achieved, on average, about 65% of the programme's deliverables.

Revise Draft Services Bills: While the TOR indicated four service bills to be updated, in fact the following five model bills have been revised:

1. Immigration (Entry and Temporary Stay) of EU Service Suppliers
2. Telecommunications Regulatory [Commission/Authority]
3. Interconnection and Access to Facilities
4. International Maritime Transport Services
5. Profession Services Regulation

In light of the capacity concerns at the national level it has been essential to give States adequate time to review and comment on the revised instruments.

#### DRAFT CARICOM MRA & RELATED INSTRUMENTS

The primary goal of this project component is to support the process of finalizing a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for the movement of professional qualifications of architects. The instrument that is being prepared under this project component is an intra-CARICOM MRA, using the guidelines negotiated by architects in 2014, a draft MRA has been prepared. The revised instruments have been sent to the Beneficiary and are being re-circulated to the States.

The Consultant has reached out to the countries to ascertain their needs and in July met with the President of the Guyana Institute of Architects (and the Guyana EPA Coordinator) to discuss the way forward.

#### VALIDATION OF TRADE DATA

This project component assumed an even greater level of urgency because of the need to respond to the draft Factual Presentation prepared by the WTO Secretariat in addition to validating the data required by the WTO to finalize the report. The Consultant has supported this process by participating in both video conferences from Guyana and by providing specific technical assistance in the preparation of the related documents. This approach should clear the way for validated trade data to be submitted to the WTO.

#### DESIGN EPA MONITORING SYSTEM

The Consultant has developed a draft EPA Monitoring & Evaluation framework which is undergoing review by the Beneficiary and the CARIFORUM States. Two regional consultations with the CARIFORUM States were an integral part of this process. The Directorate is considering scheduling a validation session by video conference with the CARIFORUM States.