

## CARIFORUM EPA

### SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

NEWSLETTER 8 APRIL 2017

During the month of April the following programme activities were implemented by the TAT:

**Legislation to provide for reciprocal market access for services.** Following the consultations held in March with the States, the five draft model bills have been updated and sent to the Beneficiary for circulation to the States to conduct national consultations. Each of them have been accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum and a Guide to Enactment. The workshop to validate the draft bills has been re-scheduled to the week of 5th June, 2017. The Beneficiary raised concern about the unavailability of key trade officials for the initially planned dates (8-10 May), therefore a rescheduling was deemed necessary.

**Intra-CARIFORUM Mutual Recognition Agreement for Architects.** A regional consultation on international recognition arrangements for architectural services was held by video conference on April 4, 2017. The Team Leader participated from Guyana as part of her activities during Mission II. The States concluded that the priority need is for the Consultant to draft an intra-CARICOM MRA.

The same activities need to be completed with respect to an intra-CARICOM MRA for architects, as an interim step towards accomplishing the DR-CARICOM MRA. The Team Leader held a follow-up consultation with CAMRAC on 21 April, 2017. The workshop to validate the MRA has been re-scheduled to the week of 5th, June, 2017.

**Transposition of EPA Tariff Schedule to provide for reciprocal market access for goods.** Work continues on updating the EPA tariff schedule from HS 2002 to HS 2017. The Consultant participated in the regional meeting on the transposition of the harmonised commodity description and coding system in the EPA. The Team Leader presented on the issues to be addressed during the transposition exercise and the planned approaches. To support the work of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on this issue, the Consultant also developed a timeline of expected activities. A regional meeting on the transposition of the harmonized commodity description and coding system in the EPA was held by video conference on April 3, 2017.

**Validation of Data for WTO Transparency Mechanism.** The WTO Secretariat has, on its own responsibility, prepared a draft "Factual Presentation on the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States and the European Union". Prior to circulating to WTO Members, the WTO Secretariat has asked that CARIFORUM States address a number of questions raised throughout the document, also repeating its request for the trade data needed to complete charts that are essential to the document. A response is requested by 12th May.

To address this urgent issue, the EPA Implementation Unit has decided to expand, with the support of TA team, hold a video conference of the States on 16-17th, May to both validate the trade data and to address the questions raised in the WTO draft Factual Presentation.

**Preparation of Public Education Materials:** In consultation with the Beneficiary during Mission II, the Team Leader developed a draft work plan for this project component. Pending approval of the work plan, a first contribution has been drafted.

**Design of EPA Monitoring System/Review of EPA Implementation Roadmap:** The newly-recruited Non-Key Expert has been briefed by the Team Leader, held consultations with the Beneficiary and outlined a methodological note to fill the gap on these activities as was envisaged in the Inception Report.