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CARIFORUM EPA

SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIFORUM-EU ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

FOCUS ON THE PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES

In January 2017, the EPA Implementation Unit of the CARIFORUM Directorate with the support of the TradeCom II Programme of the ACP launched a programme to provide support for implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The programme has several components serving two primary purposes:

- 1. Enhance the legal and regulatory environment in CARIFORUM States to foster an enabling environment for economic growth; and
- 2. Strengthen capacity in the EPA Implementation Unit to facilitate the effective implementation of the EPA.



CREATING A LEGAL REGIME TO FACILITATE FREE MOVEMENT OF ARCHITECTS WITHIN CARIFORUM

CARIFORUM member states have committed to the recognition of professional qualifications across the region. Qualified professionals who are nationals of one CARIFORUM member have the right to provide their services in another member state. A legal regime is needed to reduce or minimize the barriers to transferring professional qualifications from one country to the next.

Under this programme component, a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) of professional qualifications of architects across CARIFORUM has been drafted. This Agreement will be the first of its kind in CARIFORUM.

The essential contents of the MRA had been previously negotiated by the architects of the region through a representative body, Caribbean Architects Mutual Recognition Committee (CAMRAC). The MRA creates a harmonised standard for the professional qualifications that a registered CARIFORUM architect seeking to practice in another CARIFORUM country is required to meet. The harmonised standard is informed by international requirements as this MRA is also to serve as a preparatory instrument to engage in negotiations with the European Union (and conceivably other countries/regions) for the mutual recognition of the professional qualifications of CARICOM/CARIFORUM architects. The

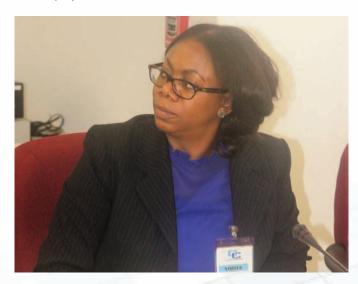
Agreement does not change the requirements for registration by an architect in his or her national jurisdiction. Adoption of the finalized MRA by CARIFORUM countries will require the Registration Boards in CARIFORUM countries to recognize the qualifications of architects within CARIFORUM who meet the requirements of the MRA.

The Profession Service Regulation Bill for the registration of architects has been prepared under this project component and is under consideration by States. The draft model bill incorporates policy elements adopted by CARIFORUM since many of the existing laws were enacted: (i) requirement for annual licensing by registered architects; (ii) requirements for professional development and, where feasible, professional indemnity insurance; (iii) use of fees collected by the Registration Board to fund its operations; and (iv) requirement for a professional code of conduct, which a 2013 survey of the architecture profession indicated that the code was in use in only about 50% of CARIFORUM States. The provisions in the draft model bill containing these new policy elements can be used to amend the law of those States with an existing framework to regulate the practice of architecture.

In addition to the Profession Service Regulation Bill, four other model bills have been revised under the Programme:

- 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

In order to better assist the States to review the revised bill a summary report of the decisions taken on each draft bill is under preparation.





IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY FOR MOVEMENT OF GOODS UNDER THE EPA

Another programme component has been supporting the process of updating the tariff schedules which implement the EPA liberalization commitments of CARIFORUM States. The tariff codes used when the EPA was signed in 2008 have been updated to 2017 tariff codes (HS 2017). The updated tariff schedule will also indicate the phase-out periods (ending in 2033) by CARIFORUM States of tariffs on EU imported products.

The updated tariff codes will also allow government officials, traders and other entrepreneurs to have accurate and precise information as to the treatment of goods traded under the EPA.



SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITY TO **MONITOR THE EPA**

In Article 5 of the EPA, the EU and the CARIFORUM States agreed to continuously monitor the operation of the Agreement. The purpose of this ongoing monitoring is to ensure that the Agreement is being properly implemented and the anticipated benefits from the Agreement for public sector, business community and the populace in general are maximised.

Under this programme component, a draft framework to achieve this objective has been designed. This framework is intended to serve as CARIFORUM's proposal towards creation of a joint CARIFORUM-EU monitoring mechanism for the EPA.

The draft framework has factored in two key considerations:

- 1 The need to build on existing monitoring frameworks used by other regional organisations. This was important to minimize the additional work burden and use of limited resources in designing and implementing the framework; and
- Incorporate ongoing feedback from the CARIFORUM States as implementers of the monitoring framework.

The framework proposes to assess the EPA according to its key objectives, using concrete indicators and measures. One major EPA objective, for example, is to support the conditions for increasing investments, competitiveness, and economic growth in the CARIFORUM region. The designed system will provide the basis not only to track implementation with regards to this objective but also to assess the impact of its implementation. Monitoring will also help States to determine where and how to improve on EPA implementation performance and how best to take advantage of the EPA towards the ultimate goal of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

NEXT STEPS

A mid-programme review of the programme allowed the Directorate, the TradeComII Programme Management Unit (PMU), and the programme implementers to assess progress to date, identify challenges and the means of addressing them. At the six-month mark, the programme was on average about 65% of the way towards meeting programme deliverables.

Over the remaining few months of programme implementation, the following documents will be revised and finalized with the goal of having them adopted by the CARIFORUM States:

Model legislation and guides to enactment:

- (*) Immigration (Entry and Temporary Stay) of EU Service Suppliers
- Telecommunications Regulatory [Commission/Authority]
- Interconnection and Access to Facilities
- International Maritime Transport Services

Documents to support creation of legal regime to facilitate movement of architects:

- Mutual Recognition Agreement for the movement of professional qualifications of architects
- Pall to give effect to the MRA
- Bill for registration of architects
- Guides to Enactment for model bills

Improved transparency for movement of goods under EPA

- Appendix I to Annex II of the EPA (EPA tariff schedule) in HS
- Annex II to Protocol I of the EPA (EPA rules of origin) in HS 2017

Monitoring the EPA

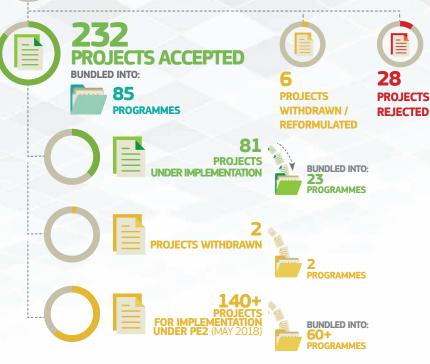
Final draft CARIFORUM proposal on framework for monitoring and evaluating the EPA



FOCUS ON PMU ACTIVITIES

STATE OF PLAY OF "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" COMPONENT

266 TOTAL PROJECT REQUESTS



PROGRAMMES' DISTRIBUTION PER "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" OBJECTIVES

CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED



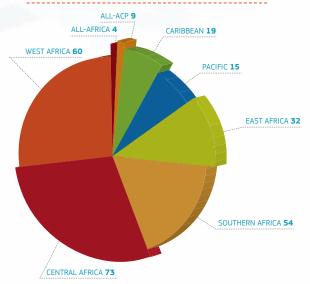
TRADE NEGOTIATION CAPACITIES OF ACP BENEFICIARIES STRENGTHENED & AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTED



TRADE FACILITATION & COMPETITIVENESS STRENGTHENED



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REQUESTS



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMMES





EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

TARGETED SUPPORT TO THE EAC FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRIPARTITE FTA AGREEMENT-TRADE POLICY AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT TO THE EU

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES

The first management meeting, following the approval of the Inception Report, was held on 8 August 2017, and was chaired by the Director for Trade. The meeting's objective was to review the implementation of the programme. The Team Leader highlighted some of the main challenges in getting the programme moving, emphasising the need for these to be factored in when reviewing the time schedule for delivery. The Team Leader stressed that the internal rescheduling of some activities would not impact the overall delivery schedule and that the programme is on track. It is expected that, despite initial delays, the programme outputs will be delivered within the expected 12-month timeframe.

The month of August has been focused on the preparation of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) field mission and the Simplified Trade Regime (STR) related Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) training session. Furthermore the Key Expert 2 carried out a field visit to Arusha in August, during which the logistical arrangements for the future OSBP visits and STR trainings were dealt with. Additionally, the team has been working on preparing the different draft reports, which have gone through a second and third iteration of comments and discussions internally.

PIFS AND NIUE

TARGETED SUPPORT TO PIFS TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR MAINSTREAMING TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORKS (TPFS) AND OVERALL TRADE AGENDA IN THE PACIFIC REGION. AND TO NIUE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS TPF

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES

The programme has progressed well since the programme's activities commenced in March 2017, and there remains broad agreement between the programme team, Trade Com II, and both beneficiaries on the programme's outputs and activities, timeframe, and methodology. At this point, both the 'Regional' and 'National' Components of the programme are at a relatively advanced stage.

With respect to the regional component's main output, the Regional Manual on Trade Policy Mainstreaming, it is at the final stages of formulation and a comprehensive draft will be shortly submitted to TradeCom II and the Beneficiary. Once finalised, the draft Manual will be circulated to the PACPS for approval and will form the basis of a Regional Workshop in the final stages of the programme.

Activities under the national component (begun in Niue in mid-May) are mostly complete. Policy work on the TPF and Implementation Matrix has been completed; training and capacity building activities have also been completed. Support to conduct a meeting of the NTC has been provided and the NTC meeting was held. In terms of the work on customs, a comprehensive review of Niue's customs legislation has been carried out and submitted to Niue authorities and consultations with stakeholders has been carried out.

Following the work carried out during the mission in May and June, the two outstanding technical inputs under the national component were submitted in August.

Visibility activities have also progressed, with all-but-one of the required interviews from Niue stakeholders completed, for use in the first of the programme's short videos.

Following the completion of the outstanding activities in the regional and national components, work has begun on the organisation of the regional workshop on trade policy mainstreaming, which is tentatively scheduled for early November. At this point, a format and draft agenda for the workshop is currently under preparation, and participants are being identified together with the Beneficiary.



MAURITIUS

STRENGTHENING EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN MAURITIUS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE I-EPA IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES

Following the kick-off meeting and further discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, a set of criteria to select enterprises who will receive support under this programme was agreed. The lead beneficiary - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade - and the TA Team have also agreed on a process for selecting the participating businesses. This initial process of selection has laid the foundations for delivering on the Results identified in the Terms of Reference (TORs).

Between early August and early September, a total number of 83 potential local enterprises were provided to the TA Team by the programme stakeholders including BOI, MEXA, MCCI, Enterprise Mauritius, and NWEC. This initial list was reviewed with the assigned MOBEC and SMEDA staff in order to identify enterprises least suitable to the scope of the programme, e.g. business whose products are not yet export ready or those who lack financial fluidity. As a result of this exercise, the list was reduced to 60 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the TA Team contacted each of them directly to obtain further details regarding their products, operations, etc. 37 of the SMEs were subsequently paid an initial visit by the TA Team. Each of the visits lasted two to five hours and resulted in (i) obtaining more specific data on the needs of each business and (ii) initial mentoring.

Ultimately, 32 enterprises were selected to participate in activities under this programme. The final list was discussed with and approved by the lead beneficiary, i.e. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Trade Integration and International Trade and all other programme stakeholders.

Following a series of site visits, the TA found that the key areas within which the SMEs require support are:

- Pusiness development, including digital marketing, export growth, etc.; and
- Quality management, including standards, certification, export requirements, etc

MSG SECRETARIAT

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT TO THE MSG SECRETARIAT AND TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE REGION'S TRADE FACILITATION SERVICES

INCEPTION MEETING

The Enabling Environments Team of Experts mounted its Inception Mission to officially launch this Technical Assistance (TA) intervention on August 14, 2017, with an Inception Meeting convened with Mr John Licht (Programme Manager, Trade and Investment Division - MSG Secretariat), the focal point for the MSG Secretariat for the implementation of this programme. During the Inception/Kick Off Meeting several aspects of the programme were discussed with a view to clarify issues and chart a clear path for the implementation of all three (3) aspects of the programme.

Other meetings were convened with specific members of staff within the MSG Secretariat, given their role and relationship with the Trade and Investment Division. Specifically, the Team met with Mr David Hopa, Program Manager of the Economic Development Division and Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, the Director General of the MSG Secretariat. The Enabling Environments Ltd Team of Experts also utilised the Inception Mission to hold discussions with some members of the airlines industry to obtain their perspectives on issues relevant to Dimension 2 of this programme.

Accordingly, the Team obtained specific guidelines from the beneficiary in relation to the approach to be undertaken in identifying the challenges which impede the efficient operations of the MSG Secretariat to monitor trade flows, having been advised that consideration should be given to assessing the systems, processes and institutional arrangements that exist in beneficiary MSG Member Countries in respect of monitoring trade flows. In addition, specific to the assessment of bottlenecks that impede the efficiency with which trade facilitation services are provided, it was confirmed that there should be a focus on leveraging the lessons learnt from the Central Pacific Shipping Commission and further building on the Shipping Baseline Study undertaken in 2016

In respect of the development of the MSG Business Directory, the Enabling Environments Team has been directed to build on previous work undertaken by the Pacific Integrated Technical Assistance Project, while noting that additional elements are to be included as well



ECCAS

ECCAS TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

START-UP PHASE

This project was awarded to the company SOGES and the contract was signed on 21 July 2017 for a period of 9 months.

This contract has the following specific purposes:

- Improve efficiency in implementing the Trade Facilitation Strategy;
- Market in the conclusions of the of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference;
- ? Contribute in building a system to develop Central African countries' technological capacities, innovation and competitiveness.

During the start-up mission launched in the week of 7th August, experts engaged in discussions with ECCAS about project expectations; they also had preliminary consultations with the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), as well as officials from Gabon and the University of Yaounde II, SOA (Cameroon).

The ECCAS Secretariat intends to use this project to structure its assistance to member States in the trade and development agenda, and therefore requested that all activities be aligned with the ECCAS Treaty and its legal and regulatory provisions. The Secretariat also confirmed that it was necessary to focus on the need to correct Central Africa's low capacity in trade and regional integration; it also exhorted the need to mobilise universities and training institutes to teach trade and development in the sub region, especially by tapping on the experience of the University of Yaounde II (SOA-Cameroon) through WTO training sessions, the Post Graduate Diploma in Trade Policies in partnership with the OIF, and the Economic Policy Management Programme (GPE). The University of Yaounde II has also demonstrated its willingness to collaborate with ECCAS for this project, including in long term prospects.

The first training workshop themed "Strengthening Central Africa's Participation in Trade Negotiations" will be held in Yaounde (Cameroon) from 25 to 27 October 2017 and will span three days.

CAMEROON

OPTIMISING MARKET ACCESS AND CAMEROON'S TRADE POLICY-RELATED LEGAL TOOLS

PROGRAMME'S HIGHLIGHTS

This programme was awarded to the company TRANSTEC and the contract was signed on 16 March 2017 for an initial period of 8 months, later extended to 10, to factor-in the replacement of the programme's team leader due to health reasons.

This programme is divided into two related goals and components which should contribute to the general purpose of sustainable economic development in Cameroon through increased exports to the European Union:

- Properationalize the national exportation strategy, including trade opportunities under the new EPA, and
- Marrove the prevention of trade disputes involving Cameroon, taking into account its development requirements.

The needs expressed by the beneficiary with respect to the first component of the programme, deal more with operationalizing the existing strategies than with defining them. Moreover, given that this project falls under the framework of implementing the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the request is that emphasis be laid on the access of Cameroonian goods and

services to the European Union market. Experts carried out literature review, consultation and relevant document analysis, and then drafted the market access map (Result 1.1) and the national export strategy (Result 1.2).

The second component focuses on two elements: the first concerns facilitating operations for access to the markets of non-member countries and the second contributes in curbing importations that cause material prejudice to a national production sector. This component is closely linked to the first one in the sense that it is already implementing some recommendations to solve competitiveness-related problems of Cameroonian goods and services.

This second component will involve training sessions on the following themes: dispute prevention and settlement, trade contract writing and trade disputes. Another training cycle will concern anti-competition procedures and the introduction of a warning and monitoring protocol on anti-competition practices. These training sessions are scheduled for November and December 2017.





The EAC secretariat organised a Round Table Conference on Trade Facilitation, bringing together partners who are working with EAC in the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA). The aim of the round table was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to look at collaboration and coordination of Development Partners in relation to the various components of the TFA regional plan.

The round table was held on 27th September 2017 at the EAC headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania and benefited from the contributions of representatives of UNCTAD, WTO, WCO as well as all the EAC Member States. In this context, the TradeCom II Programme was invited to participate, given the PMU's mandate to support ACP Countries and Regions to improve their trade capacity. The mission was undertaken by the Regional Trade Expert, Poonam D. Mohun.

The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) was adopted by the WTO General Council in November 2014. TFA is aimed at facilitating trade by simplifying, harmonizing and standardizing trade procedures and making them transparent so as to reduce time and cost of any trade operation. Trade Facilitation is of the essence to enhance trade competitiveness and economic growth in developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs).





The WTO TFA aims to fast track the movement of goods among countries by cutting down red tape and triggering TF reforms. The TFA also provides for commitments from both, developing and developed countries, as regards its implementation. Indeed, WTO developing countries and least developed countries are to implement the measures in line with their capacity, and developed countries are to support developing members to acquire the necessary capacity.

The EAC Partner States decided to coordinate the implementation of the TFA as a bloc establishing a Regional Trade Facilitation Sub-Committee and developing an EAC Regional Trade Facilitation Implementation Action Plan with the aim to coordinate the implementation of the TFA at the EAC regional level. The EAC also ensures the convergence of the national implementation plans and coordinates the capacity building and sensitization of stakeholders on the Trade Facilitation.

During the Round Table Conference, the EAC presented the progress on the TFA implementation and action plan highlighting the key priorities at national level and the appraisal of the state of play at the international level particularly the WTO and WCO.





In conclusion, the Round Table agreed that the EAC will develop a concept note that summarizes the key issues on TFA implementation in terms of coordination, and identification of projects that need donor support. The concept note should include, among others, a joint programming and coordination mechanism between EAC and Development Partners that maps existing projects, identify areas for support and enable ongoing dialogue. Furthermore, it will foresee cross border interconnectivity of systems to enhance the exchange of information and capacity building of all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The Round Table reaffirmed also the need to strengthen the linkage between the National Trade Facilitation Committees and regional sub-committee on Trade Facilitation Agreement to enhance planning, feedback and to develop a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism to monitor the performance of the TFA implementation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PIFS AND NIUE - SUPPORT TO PIFS TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR MAINSTREAMING TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORKS (TPFS) AND OVERALL TRADE AGENDA IN THE PACIFIC REGION, AND TO NIUE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS TPF

FINAL WORKSHOP | NADI, FIJI; 30-31 OCTOBER 2017

ECOWAS - SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WEST AFRICA-EU EPA AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

SEMINAIRE DES PARLEMENTAIRES DE LA CEDEAO ET DE LA MAURITANIE "NOUVELLE POLITIQUE COMMERCIALE COMMUNE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE LA CEDEAO ET L'APE AO-UE" | ABUJA; 02-03 NOVEMBER 2017

ATELIER DE FORMATION DES JURISTES "LA COOPÉRATION ET L'ASSISTANCE JURIDIQUES DANS LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE L'ACCORD DE PARTENARIAT ECONOMIQUE" | OUAGADOUGOU; 6 - 9 NOVEMBER 2017

FINAL WORKSHOP "ELABORATION D'OUTILS PEDAGOGIQUES DE FORMATION ET DE DIVULGATION DE L'APE CEDEAO-UE ET MISE EN PLACE D'UN CADRE REGIONAL D'ASSISTANCE JURIDIQUE AUX ETATS D'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST DANS LE DOMAINE DES CONTENTIEUX COMMERCIAUX " | OUAGADOUGOU; 9 NOVEMBER 2017

OECS - COMMON OECS SERVICE AND FISHERIES TRADE POLICIES

OECS FISHERIES SUBSIDIES WORKSHOP- SAINT LUCIA; 8-10 NOVEMBER 2017,

AFRICAN UNION

5TH ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPAS) COORDINATION MEETING - HARARE, ZIMBABWE; 7-9 NOVEMBER 2017

Glossary

ACP Africa Caribbean and Pacific

CARIFORUM Caribbean Forum

COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

CTA Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation

DG DEVCO Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

East African Community

ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

EDD European Development Days **EPA** Economic Partnership Agreement

EU European Union

FTA Free Trade Area

ITC International Trade Centre **LDC** Least Developed Countries

NAMA Non-Agricultural Market Access

NTB Non-Tariff barriers

NTPF National Trade Policy Framework

OECS Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

OIF Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

PACPs Pacific ACP States

PIFs Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat **PMU** Programme Management Unit

RCEP Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

RTA Regional Trade Agreement

SADC Southern African Development Community

SDG Sustainable development goals **SME** Small and Medium Enterprises **SPS** Sanitary and Phytosanitary

TBT Technical Barriers to Trade Tripartite Free Trade Area TFTA TRA Trade-Related Assistance

TRIPS Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

TPP Trans-Pacific Partnership TPF Trade Policy Framework

TTIP Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership **UNCTAD** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNECA United Nations Economic Commission for Africa **WAEMU** West African Economic and Monetary Union

WCO World Customs Organisation **WTO** World Trade Organisation

TRADE COM PROGRAMME

BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY
RENFORCER LES CAPACITES COMMERCIALES DES ACP

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