Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery

Regional Media Workshop
On the

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EPA Overview Workshop

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), in an effort to promote greater understanding of the recently concluded Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) facilitated a one-day workshop for Senior Editors and Correspondents within the Region at the Grand Barbados Beach Resort, Carlisle Bay, Barbados on Friday, February 15th 2008 under the theme **"The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): An Overview"**

1.2 Goal

The goal of the workshop was to give an the Participants an overview of specific aspects of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiated between the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Commission (EC), which is the executive arm of the European Union (EU).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the Workshop were as follows:

1. To generate understanding of the technical aspects of the EPA for the benefit of Regional Media;
2. To provide a forum for interaction and sharing of information between the CRNM and Regional Media;
3. To identify priorities for the further strengthening and promotion of the CRNM's Public Education Campaign for the EPA;

1.4 Summary of Workshop

The workshop opening remarks by the CRNM's Director, Technical Cooperation, Partnerships and Information, Mr. Trevor L. Boothe, reiterated previous efforts by the CRNM to engage the media ("the fourth estate"), in the various activities undertaken by the organization, including a similar workshop held last year (2007) for the media.

Mr. Boothe explained that the reason for the workshop at this time was significant, in that the Agreement (the EPA) has been generating significant debate in the Region by people in academia, government, representatives of interests groups, and also the media. He lamented however that in many of the cases there was an obvious lack of understanding about the Agreement, and therefore the CRNM felt that, given the important role of the media as an incubator in facilitating discussion and providing information on the EPA, it was logical that some effort must be made to present the fact around the EPA, especially since the text of the Agreement (at the time of the workshop) was still not in the public domain.

PRESENTATION# 1

EPA Negotiations Overview: *Including Mandate, Objectives, Organisation and Process*

Dr. Richard A. Bernal, Director General, CRNM

After brief remarks and greetings, the Director General gave a general overview of the overall process and results of the concluded Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations.

The CRNM Head emphasized that CARIFORUM (which is comprised of 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community - CARICOM and the Dominican Republic) was the only ACP

Region to complete a full EPA, within the prescribed time frame, and with the negotiating objectives established by Member States satisfied.

The Director General also lamented the misinformation/ inaccuracies surrounding the EPA in the Region's media, and reiterated the point made by Mr. Boothe, that this *inter alia* is the reason for the workshop at this time.

A copy of the complete power point presentation is available at:
http://www.crnm.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/media_workshop/EPA%20Negotiations%20-%20An%20Overview%20(Richard%20Bernal).pdf

PRESENTATION# 2

EPA Negotiations Overview: *Market Access in Goods*

Henry S. Gill, Senior Director, CRNM

The Senior Director, Henry Gill explained that for the purposes of the workshop, that coverage will be only on three (3) out of four (4) negotiating areas as covered by the TNGs in the EPA.[1].

The CRNM established in the introduction of this presentation the basic tenets of market access liberalization within the EPA including asymmetrical reciprocity, regional preference, and substantial liberalization, the treatment of traditional agricultural exports.

A copy of the complete power point presentation is available at:
http://www.crnm.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/media_workshop/EPA%20Negotiations%20-%20Market%20Access%20(Henry%20Gill).pdf

PRESENTATION# 3

[1] Legal and Institutional Issues were not covered in this workshop

EPA Negotiations Overview: *Services and Investment*

Ramesh A. Chaitoo, Head, Services Trade Unit, CRNM

The Head of the Services Trade Unit, Mr. Chaitoo primarily focused on highlighted the important and unprecedented achievements facilitated by the EPA including the investment provisions for important CARIFORUM service sectors including entertainment, tourism, IT sectors.

A copy of the complete power point presentation is available at:
http://www.crnm.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/media_workshop/EPA%20Negotiations%20-%20Services%20and%20Investment%20(Ramesh%20Chaitoo).pdf

PRESENTATION# 4

EPA Negotiations Overview: *Trade Related Issues*

J. Malcolm Spence, Senior Coordinator, Intellectual Property/ Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues, CRNM

Mr. Spence went through the following areas in his presentation:

- The matter of competition;
- Innovation and intellectual property;
- Public procurement;
- The environment;
- Social aspects; and
- Protection of personal data.

The presentation emphasized that in the EPA the main objective of the government procurement provisions was not primarily to offer the EU Market Access to the Region, but to enforce transparency and ensure better quality of services and goods.
It was also emphasized that the final provisions of the EPA which addressed government procurement, reflect full consideration of the situation of the Region with respect to competition with the EU service providers. He pointed out for the benefit of the participants that the CARIFORUM provisions for the EPA relating to government procurement were drafted under the guidance of Patrice Pratt-Harrison of the CRNM, who was the main architect of government procurement provisions under the CSME arrangement of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

A copy of the complete power point presentation is available at:
http://www.crnm.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/media_workshop/EPA%20Negotiations%20-%20Trade%20Related%20Issues%20(Malcolm%20Spence).pdf

PRESENTATION# 5

EPA Negotiations Overview: *Development in the EPA*

Carl B. Greenidge, Deputy Senior Director, CRNM

The Deputy Senior Director's presentation essentially covered the entire Agreement, with relevant references affecting development for CARIFORUM. The presentation outlined the way development as a concept has been treated across the full evolution of ACP relations with the European Union. The presentation fully outlined the treatment of development beyond the textual provisions under "the Development chapter' and illustrated how development as a primary objective was facilitated by the individual chapters of the EPA.

A copy of the complete power point presentation is available at:

http://www.crnm.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/media_workshop/EPA%20Negotiations%20%20EPA%20as%20a%20Development%20Tool%20(Carl%20Greenidge).pdf

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Boothe closed the workshop proceedings and expressed gratitude to all the participants and the CRNM for their roles in making the workshop a successful undertaking.

Appendix 1: Workshop Agenda

Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery

CRNM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Overview Workshop for the Media

February 15, 2008
Grand Barbados Beach Resort, Barbados

DRAFT AGENDA

8:45 a.m.	**Registration**
9:00 a.m.	**Welcome**
	Mr. Trevor L. Boothe - Director of Technical Cooperation, Partnerships and Information
9:10 a.m.	**EPA Negotiations Overview: Including Mandate, Objectives, Organisation and Process**
	Ambassador Richard Bernal - Director General
10:00 a.m.	**Market Access**
	Mr. Henry Gill - Senior Director
11:00 a.m.	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:15 a.m.	**Services and Investment**
	Mr. Ramesh Chaitoo – Head, Services Trade Unit
12:15 p.m.	**LUNCH**
1.30 p.m.	**Trade Related Issues: Including Government Procurement, Innovation and Intellectual Property**
	Mr. Malcolm Spence – Senior Coordinator, Intellectual Property, Science and Technology
2.30 p.m.	**EPA as a Development Tool**
	Mr. Carl Greenidge, Deputy Senior Director
3.30 p.m.	**Final Discussions**
4:00 p.m.	**Closing**

N.B.

1. Presentations by CRNM personnel will be a maximum of 30 minutes, allowing 30-40 minutes for open discussion.
2. Presentations will be in PowerPoint and will be available in both electronic and hard copies.
3. Refreshments will also be available during the afternoon session and may be accessed at will as there will therefore be no formal coffee break during that time.

Appendix 2: Presentation

Welcome
By
The Director of Technical Cooperation, Partnerships and Information
On The Occasion Of The
CARIFORUM –EC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Overview
Workshop for Regional Media
Grand Barbados
February 15, 2008

Power Points

- Welcome and thanks for taking the time away from your newsrooms to join us in dialogue today.

- The Press always had an important role to play in informing society about matters of importance to your readership. Many of you have written about the EPA and in so doing have helped promote a very public discussion about a matter that has economic implications and opportunities for all of our citizens.

- I wish on behalf of CRNM to publicly acknowledge your contributions in this regard, and to thank you.

- Today's Workshop is not our fist dialogue with representatives of the regional media. However, the nature of that dialogue has not been as intense or frequent as we would have wished. As a small organization we have faced the reality of resource constraints related to
    i. the availability of technical staff members who would have been subsumed in the negotiation process across several theatres,
    ii. and the availability of funding.

- **In 2000** –: CRNM participated in the Inaugural Meeting for a Caribbean *Network of Development Journalists* organized by the UNDP in Barbados.

In 2001 –: CRNM participated in a Trade Conference for Regional Journalists organised by CPDC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank.

In 2002 -: CRNM participated in the Inaugural Meeting for a Caribbean Network of Development Journalists organized by the UNDP in Barbados.

In 2003 –: We co-hosted the CRNM/CPDC Trade Workshop for Media Workers, Montego Bay, Jamaica

In 2004 –: We hosted a Regional Workshop on Trade for Journalists/ Media Practitioners in Antigua

In 2005 -: CRNM participated by video link in an OECS media presentation on EPA negotiations.

In 2006 -: CRNM hosted a Workshop on Trade and Culture Issues for Media practitioners in Kingston, Jamaica

In 2007 -: We hosted a Workshop for Regional Journalists on the EPA Negotiations held at The Grand Barbados Hotel, Barbados.

And now in **2008**, we are pleased to host you at today's Workshop on the EPA.

- This listing is not exhaustive and does not include a significant number of radio and television interviews over the years. Nor does it include the weekly Caribbean TradeBeat radio Program which was directed at the Private Sector but which has unfortunately come to an end.

- This particular Workshop is to provide you the regional media with factual information about the CARIFORUM -EC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in an open and transparent forum, where ample opportunity will be provided for full dialogue, and the CRNM gives you our undertaking that we will respond meaningfully to any and all of your questions.

- The EPA is a complex Agreement and we recognise that without adequate information on the content and the process that culminated in the Agreement, it could quite easily be the subject of misunderstandings.

- It is no secret that several myths about the EPA have already arisen. We have been addressing those myths in a public way through our Communications Outreach activities and we will continue to do so for as long as it takes.

- Today we are here to continue our tradition of dialogue and exchange with you the representatives of the Fourth Estate. We absolutely insist upon hearing your questions, reservations and concerns. At the end of the day, we hope that this discussion will not only leave you very well informed about the EPA and the process by which it was arrived at, but that it will also better enable you to inform the Caribbean people who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the this important Agreement.

- I'd like to take this time to introduce the CRNM Team….

Appendix 3: List of Participants

Nominating Agency	First Name	Surname	Current Position	Address
Nassau Guardian	Terrence	Murrell	Night Editor	P.. Box N-3011 #4 Carter Street Oakes Field
MEF	Alexandre David	Guivenson	Press Attache	Rue Mor Guilloux Plais Des Ministeres Champ De Mars
Caribbean Media Corporation	Fernella	Wedderburn	News Reporter	Harbor Industrial Road St. Michael
Sun Printing & Publishing Ltd.	Anika	Caleb-Browne	Reporter	15 Pavilion Drive Coolidge PO Box W263
	Ricky	Singh	Regional Reporter	Jason 3rd Avenue Strathclyde
Starcom Network Inc.	Roseanne	Pile	Senior Reporter	River Road
Barbados Advocate	Jewel	Brathwaite	Business Editor	PO Box 230
Nation Publishing Company	Julie	Wilson	Reporter	Kirtons No. 3
Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation	Lisa	Brome	Reporter	The Pine
EU Commission Bar	Wayne	Lewis	Press Officer	Melville House Hastings

The Reporter Newspaper	Angel	Novelo	Journalist	14 West Stree
	Carlisle	Jno Baptiste	Senior Reporter	Pointe Miche
DR1.COM	Leuvis	Olivero	Trade & News Correspondent	G Mejia Ricart 119 B Santo Domingo
Stabroek News	Miranda	La Rose	Senior Journalist	46/47 Robb Street Lacytown
The Gleaner Company	Dionne	Rose	Buisness Reporter	7 North Stree
	Clive	Bacchus	Managing Director / EIC	C24 The San
Star Newspaper	Kayra	Williams	Reporter	Massaele
Ministry of Trade and Industry	Ivan	Cairo	Senior Journalist	Chamroeweg
Ministry of Trade and Industry	Lucille	Welles-Witenwerf	Public Relation Officer	Miquelitast 1
Trinidad Guardian	Anthony	Wilson	Editor-In-Chief (ag)	22-24 St. Vin
CARICOM Secretariat	Michelle	Nurse	Communications Officer	Turkeyen
OECS Secretariat	Kendol	Morgan	Senior Communications Officer	Morne Fortune PO Box 179

Appendix 4: Invitation Letter

February 4, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

Re: CRNM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)
Overview Workshop for the Media
Grand Barbados Beach Resort, Barbados, February 15, 2008

Negotiations between the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the European Commission (EC) for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) have been concluded. The revision process has begun in anticipation of the signing of the Agreement. The Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) wishes to collaborate further with Senior Editors and Media Officials from the CARIFORUM Region, with a view to facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of the Agreement, which we anticipate could in turn be of assistance to the media in reporting on matters relating to the EPA.

The CRNM will be hosting a one day workshop entitled: **The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): an Overview** on Friday, February 15th 2008 at the Grand Barbados Beach Resort, Aquatic Gap, Barbados, from 10 am to 3 pm, with a presentation by CRNM's Technical Staff. Ample time will be provided for interactive exchanges between CRNM and the media.

/…2

The CRNM is pleased to invite the participation of one Senior Editor/ Media Official from your organization at the workshop. In order to conclude arrangements, please submit with dispatch the name and contact information of your nominee to Ms. Michelle Roberts (michelle.roberts@crnm.org) by **February 7, 2008**.

The Workshop will be held in the Grand Barbados Beach Resort's Coral Gardens Room. Further information, including the Agenda and Administrative Arrangements, will be sent directly to the nominee upon receipt of confirmation of their attendance at the workshop.

Sincerely,

Trevor L. Boothe
Director of Technical Cooperation, Partnerships and Information