Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery

EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

Trade Related Issues

Including: Government Procurement, Innovation & Intellectual Property

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OVERVIEW

PART II, TITLE IV
(Six Chapters)

- **COMPETITION**
- **INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**
- **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **SOCIAL ASPECTS**
- **PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

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COMPETITION

- Targets anti-competitive collusion and abuse of dominant market position through information exchange and enforcement collaboration

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COMPETITION

- Provides for support over 5 year institutional capacity building transition period and 6 years confidence building collaboration

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COMPETITION

- Recognises CARIFORUM "variable geometry" integration commitments (e.g. CSME)
- Shelters public enterprises and other monopolies where necessary but promotes their withdrawal from discriminatory participation in competitive markets

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Recognises relationship between level of development, innovation system capacity and level of protection of intellectual property
- Allows for the participation of CARIFORUM in EU framework programmes, specific programmes and other activities

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Assures that nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as to impair the promotion of access to medicines
- Provides for the protection of traditional knowledge and equitable benefit sharing from its use

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Provides for priority cooperation in:

- Competitiveness and Innovation
- Science and Technology
- Information and Communications Technology
- Eco-innovation and Renewable Energy

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Provides for priority cooperation in:

- Reinforcement of Regional initiatives in Intellectual Property Rights
- Preparation of National laws and support for National institutions in order to facilitate meeting the obligations undertaken

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Provides for priority cooperation in:

- Identifying and protecting products using Geographical indications, particularly where GIs would protect local traditional knowledge and biodiversity
- The development by trade or professional associations of codes of conduct

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Provides a 6/7 year transition period for the Intellectual Property obligations, with the possibility of extension taking into account the development priorities and level of development in CARIFORUM

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Provides a 13/14 year transition period for Haiti as an LDC with the possibility of extension taking into account decisions in the WTO
- Encourages the transfer of technology from the EU to CARIFORUM
- Encourages continued regional integration

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Improves protection of digital content and facilitates access and delivery of licences
- Improves the protection for Geographical Indications for products other than wines and spirits
- Provides asymmetrical obligations concerning patent Treaties

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Facilitates the collection of evidence on infringement and the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Provides that the public procurement process be transparent when the sum involved EXCEEDS:

- 130,000 SDRs for supplies
- 130,000 SDRs for services
- 5,000,000 SDRs for works

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Provides an extensive list of exceptions, such as:

- Land or existing buildings
- Various financial services
- Agricultural products for food aid
- Programme material intended for broadcasting

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- An initial capacity building transition period of 2 years with a possible extension of 1 more year for individual States
- A transition period of 5 years for the Less Developed Countries of CARICOM

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- Provides for cooperation in the creation of a regional on-line facility for the effective dissemination of information on tendering opportunities
- If, in spite of this cooperation, the capacity still does not exist at the end of the 2 year transition period, it can be extended by a further 3 years

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- No commitment is undertaken to provide Market Access

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ENVIRONMENT

- Encourages the trade in goods and services beneficial to environment
- Recognises the need to regulate trade to ensure the achievement of a Party's justifiable sustainable development objectives
- Recognises that CARIFORUM States might need special measures

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ENVIRONMENT

- Provides a consultative process that precedes that of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism
- Provides for cooperation in the development of environmentally friendly CARIFORUM products using CARIFORUM natural resources
- Provides for cooperation in public awareness

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SOCIAL ASPECTS

- Encourages adherence to internationally recognised core labour standards
- Recognises the need to regulate trade to ensure the achievement of a Party's social cohesion and development policies

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SOCIAL ASPECTS

- Provides a consultative process that precedes that of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism
- Provides for cooperation in the development of measures for the promotion of Decent Work
- Provides for cooperation in public awareness

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PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

- Encourages the transborder flow of personal data for processing by maintaining effective data protection regimes
- Recognises the importance of cooperation in order to facilitate the development of appropriate data protection regimes

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Thank You

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http://www.crnm.org

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