



OFFICE OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

... for trade matters

SELECTED EPA PROVISIONS FOR THE AGRO-PROCESSING SECTOR

CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum
Montego Bay, Jamaica
15-16 April 2015

OVERVIEW

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- The EU Market Context
- Tariffs and Rules of Origin
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
- Innovation and Intellectual Property
- Recommendations

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THE EU MARKET CONTEXT

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A LARGE DIVERSE ECONOMY

- 500 million inhabitants and a GDP per capita of roughly 27,000 euros (\$29,000 US/capita)
- Accounting for nearly 20% of global trade and roughly 16% of global imports
- Imported processed agricultural products valued over 12 billion euros in 2013

THE EU MARKET CONTEXT

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A LARGE DIVERSE ECONOMY

- Low tariffs on unprocessed products, high tariffs on processed products (tariff escalation) and specific products (tariff peaks)
- Net importer of raw agricultural products
- Erosion of guaranteed prices traditionally paid for specific quantities of specific commodities

THE EU MARKET CONTEXT

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A LARGE DIVERSE ECONOMY

- Net importer of raw agricultural products
- Stringent sanitary, phytosanitary and traceability rules for food and feed products
- European consumers pay significantly higher prices for specialty products

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TARIFFS AND RULES OF ORIGIN

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Duty-free, quota-free entry

- Removes tariff escalation allowing more competitive production of value added products
- Removes tariff peaks allowing easier diversification of product range

TARIFFS AND RULES OF ORIGIN

- Input materials from any CARIFORUM State qualifies as originating material
- Input materials from Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Honduras qualifies as originating providing more than insufficient working or processing

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AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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Objectives

- Contribute to increased competitiveness in production, processing and trade in agricultural and fisheries products
- Promote investment in CARIFORUM agricultural, food and fisheries sectors, including small-scale activities

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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Agreement to cooperate to improve CARIFORUM

- Compliance with and adoption of quality standards
- Competitiveness of non-traditional exports
- Export marketing capabilities

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SPS MEASURES AND TBTs

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- Early notification of measures being considered to address specific problems
- Identification of contact points and competent authorities to allow for the rapid resolution of issues that might arise in the course of trade

SPS MEASURES AND TBTs

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- Cooperation to develop the capacity of CARIFORUM enterprises to meet regulatory and market requirements
- Projects to improve CARIFORUM public/private capacity to meet EU SPS Measures and TBTs committed under current and subsequent EDF

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INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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- Improve the competitiveness of MSMEs
- Commercialisation of innovative products
- Access to framework programmes, specific programmes and other activities
(<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>)

INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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- Cooperation to encourage joint activities with European neighbouring Caribbean territories
- Cooperation to develop CARIFORUM Innovation Systems and joint CARIFORUM-EU Innovation Systems

INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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- Protection for origin-linked products (Geographical Indications) and cooperation for the development of such products
- Protection of traditional knowledge
- Protection of new varieties of plants

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RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMENDATIONS

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➤ **Use EU Export Help Desk**

(<http://exporthelp.europa.eu/thdapp/index.htm>)

➤ **Monitor programme calls**

(http://ec.europa.eu/growth/contracts-grants/index_en.htm?tpa=156)

➤ **Monitor impending changes in EU food regulation** (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/>)

RECOMENDATIONS

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Press for participation in:

➤ **COSME**

(http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme/index_en.htm)

➤ **European Enterprise Network (EEN)**

(<http://een.ec.europa.eu/>)

➤ **EBN** (<http://ebn.be/>)

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