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## **CARIFORUM EPA**

- **CARIFORUM CONFIGURATION**

"CARIFORUM" stands for the "Caribbean Forum of ACP States". The region is composed of 15 countries:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent, St Kitts and Nevis, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago
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The only country being an LDC in the region is Haiti.

- **EPA STATE OF PLAY (MARCH 2013)**

The CARIFORUM-EC EPA was signed by:                    13 countries on 15 October 2008,  
Guyana on 20 October 2008,  
Haiti on 10 December 2009.

The CARIFORUM EPA forms the first full regional EPA between the EU and an ACP grouping. This comprehensive trade and development agreement covers not only trade in goods but also services and investment as well as a wide range of trade-related areas. A Trade and Development Committee (TDC) meets once a year to implement the agreement on a technical level. In 2012 the TDC agreed to a phase out of export subsidies for agricultural products, and a list of Geographical Indications in accordance with article 145 of the EPA. The next TDC will take place Nov/Dec 2013.

The first meeting of the joint CARIFORUM-EU Council was held in Madrid on 17 May 2010 in the margins of the EU-Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) summit. The rules of procedure of the Joint-Council were agreed.

More information on EC-CARIFORUM EPA:

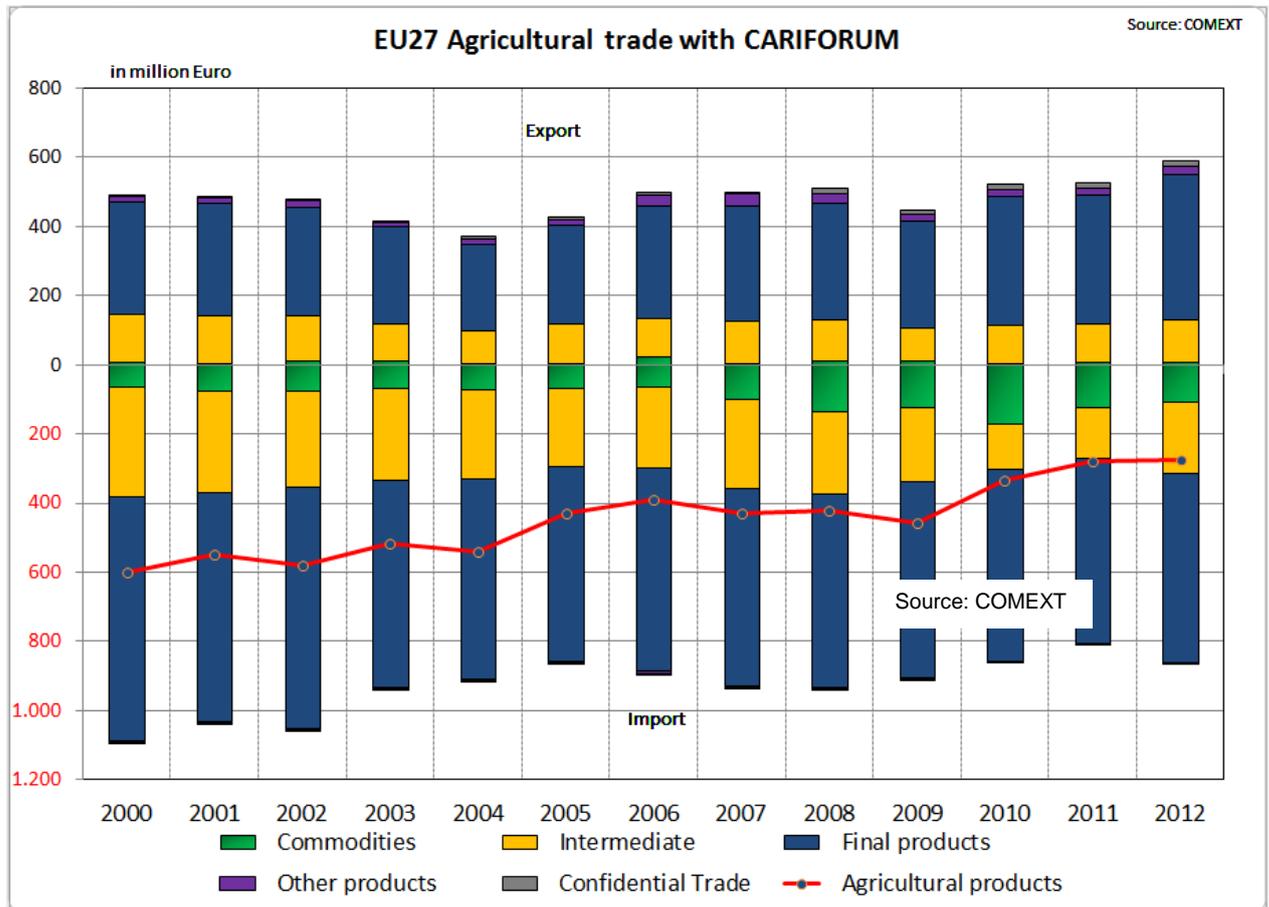
[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr220208\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr220208_en.htm)

- **IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN CARIFORUM REGION**

Country	Population (millions)	GNI per capita, Atlas (\$)	Value added, agriculture (% of GDP)
Antigua and Barbuda	0.088	13280	2
Bahamas	0.343	20610	2
Barbados	0.274	12660	3
Belize	0.345	3810	12
Dominica	0.068	6740	13
Dominican Rep.	9.9	5030	6
Grenada	0.104	6960	5
Guyana	0.755	2870	21
Haiti	10.0	670	..
Jamaica	2.7	4800	6
St Lucia	0.174	6560	3
St Vincent	0.109	6320	7
St Kitts and Nevis	0.052	11830	2
Suriname	0.525	5920	5
Trinidad and Tobago	1.3	15380	1

Source: The Little Data Book 2012. The World Bank

- **AGRICULTURE TRADE**



- **AGRICULTURE ISSUES IN EPA**

The EPA should contribute to increasing the competitiveness of production, processing and trade in agricultural and fishery products in both traditional and non-traditional sectors, consistent with the sustainable management of natural resources. The agricultural chapter identifies co-operation priorities which include areas such as development of export market capabilities, compliance with quality standards and promotion of private investment in production. The agriculture chapter takes also into consideration the issue of food security and allows CARIFORUM countries to take "appropriate measures" in case of need.

In addition, in a specific article on "traditional agricultural products", the EU has committed to undertake prior consultations on trade policy developments that may impact on the competitive positions of traditional agricultural products, including bananas, rum, rice and sugar.

All CARIFORUM agricultural goods benefit from duty-free quota-free access to the EC market, to the exception of sugar which is subject to a transitional period. In addition, a number of CARIFORUM agricultural products are excluded indefinitely from liberalization within the EPA to ensure that local producers are protected. Sensitive goods have protection from liberalization in some cases up to 25 years.

Declarations concerning agricultural products have been included at the end of the Agreement, including a joint declaration on **bananas** which acknowledges the importance of the sector for several CARIFORUM countries, recognises the benefits of a substantial tariff preference and sets out potential uses of funds to help the CARIFORUM banana industry further adjust to new challenges.

### ***Joint Declaration on Bananas***

*The Parties recognize the importance of bananas to the economic development of a number of CARIFORUM countries in terms of employment, foreign exchange and social and political stability.*

*They similarly recognize that CARIFORUM banana exports to the EU have been helped in the past by a substantial tariff preference and that the maintenance of such preference for as long as possible would increase the benefits resulting from this Agreement.*

*The CARIFORUM States also consider that the possible reduction of the MFN tariff and the implementation of Free Trade Agreements between the EC Party and certain third countries would pose significant competitive challenges for the banana industry in several CARIFORUM countries.*

*Within the framework of European Community funding instruments, both Parties will decide on the programming of funds, in complementarity to the actions already funded, and with respect to the still available funds under the Special Framework of Assistance*