



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 10 October 2008

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WTO 188
COLAT 22
RELEX 740**

NOTE

from : General secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations

Subject : Draft Community position with a view to a joint statement by the signatory CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, on the signature of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part

Delegations will find attached a draft Community position with a view to a joint statement by the signatory CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, on the signature of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, as approved by the ACP Working Party at its meeting on 10 October 2008.

Draft joint statement by the signatory CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, on the signature of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part

The Parties acknowledge that the signature of the Economic Partnership Agreement (the "Agreement") signals the changing dynamics of the global economy as well as the continuing importance of our cooperation to the realisation of the development objectives of the CARIFORUM States.

As we affix our signature to the Agreement, we emphasise that it must be supportive of the development objectives, policies and priorities of the CARIFORUM States, not only in its structure and content, but also in the manner and spirit of its implementation.

To that end and as indicated in the Agreement, its implementation will pay due regard to the integration processes in CARIFORUM, including the aims and objectives of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy as outlined in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. In such implementation special consideration will be given to ensuring that the Agreement reinforces the regional integration schemes of the CARIFORUM States.

We declare our commitment to work closely, within the institutions of the Agreement, to achieve its aims and objectives taking particular account of the different levels of development among our countries, in particular the needs of the small vulnerable economies, including in particular Haiti as a Least Developed Country, as well as those designated as less developed under The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

We understand that, in the context of our continued monitoring of the Agreement within its institutions, as provided for under article 5 of the Agreement, a comprehensive review of the Agreement shall be undertaken not later than five (5) years after the date of signature and at subsequent five-yearly intervals, in order to determine the impact of the Agreement, including the costs and consequences of implementation and we undertake to amend its provisions and adjust their application as necessary.
