

January 2012

The CSME Trade and Competitiveness Project examines the relationship

On January 25th the CSME Trade and Competitiveness Project staff along with officials from the CARICOM Secretariat met with representatives of the Government of Dominica to undertake a national review of the framework for protection of the environment in relation to obligations under the CSME. It was agreed, that the national officials would convene a follow up meeting by January 31st to further discuss the report especially the recommendations relating to physical planning. The consultant was asked to examine the OECS Protected Area Model Act and the OECS Biodiversity Model Act in finalizing the report. The final report will be presented to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. The recommendations made in the report will be incorporated into Dominica's environmental work programme.

The CSME Trade and Competitiveness Project is funded by CIDA and its goal is to assist nationals of Member States to enjoy the benefits of the CSME.

The Trade Policy Unit in 2012

2012 will be another busy year for the Trade Policy Unit. Some of the major issues that it will deal with are the establishment of a trade regime for the Economic Union particularly, the regime for trade in goods, negotiations with Canada and in the WTO, implementation of the second phase of the CSME Trade and Competitiveness Project, assisting member states to implement the CSME, the WTO Agreements and the CARIFORUM-EU EPA and providing technical support to the services sector.

The Unit will work with others in the Secretariat, the Hub and Spokes Project, and agencies such as the CARICOM Secretariat and the WTO in order to undertake its activities. Funding for some of these activities will be obtained from agencies such as the Canadian International Development Agency and the European Union

The next issue of UpDate will treat with regional and international trade issues.

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An Update from the OECS Trade Policy Unit on Trade Matters of Importance to the Sub Region