GUYANA BECOMES 14TH SIGNATORY TO THE CARIFORUM-EC EPA


The Government of Haiti, which is addressing national hurricane recovery priorities, has requested more time to review the EPA.

The Agreement will officially enter into force pending the completion of the process of ratification by the member states. However, until then CARIFORUM and Europe will provisionally apply the EPA. Through provisional application both sides will be able to benefit from the terms of the Agreement.

In accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, CARIFORUM member states will have until October 31 2008 to make the legislative changes required to give effect to provisional application. This short time window necessitates immediate action by the member states.
Once provisional application is in effect, CARIFORUM Member States can turn their attention to the task of EPA implementation. CARIFORUM will urgently need to make arrangements to implement this agreement at a number of levels – regional, sub-regional and national. Furthermore, the participation of a myriad of actors, including the private sector and civil society will be paramount to the success of the implementation process.

Since inputs and responsibilities will vary from one entity to another, effective implementation will also require the Heads of Government and COTED to clearly establish those individual and collective responsibilities and to harmonize the associated inputs so that efforts can be synchronized and implementation effected in a timely fashion.

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