

# EPA Implementation Bulletin



Official E-Newsletter of the EPA Implementation Unit within the CARIFORUM Directorate of the CARICOM Secretariat

A Bulletin of Authoritative News, Rigorous and Original Analysis and Expert Views on the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and its Implementation

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Pivotal Meeting of Regional EPA Functionaries



## Business Forum

**Special Issue**

### Editor's introduction

**T**HE CARIFORUM REGION HAS BEEN pressing ahead with the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), following the signing of this landmark Agreement. Along the way notable strides have been made by CARIFORUM states to advance the cause of EPA implementation, including strengthening of the capacity of EPA authorities to shore up implementation in respective national contexts. Generally, however, the imprint of the regional private sector with respect to *how* EPA implementation has unfolded and otherwise *taken shape* has

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What is more, generally regional enterprises are cognizant of their role as drivers of economic growth. With heightened awareness of the EPA's role in creating the conditions for and its implementation supporting the cause of competitiveness, innovation, investment and productivity, these enterprises' outlook on the EPA is changing. Regional enterprises are increasingly recognizing the Agreement's potential to enhance their role in national economies, in turn spurring economic and social progress. This Special Issue is dedicated to taking stock of the Business Forum, by showcasing the perspective primarily of the **CARICOM Secretariat**. There are also article contributions from the **Caribbean Export Development Agency**. Complementary articles also appear, one of which showcases CARICOM Secretariat perspective on the recently held coordination and network building meeting of regional EPA functionaries. A second article lends a Secretariat viewpoint on the EPA Standby Facility under the 10th EDF Programme of Support for EPA Implementation in CARIFORUM. Finally, an article contribution from the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** delves into the recently launched CARIFORUM EPA Implementation Network (CAFEIN). As is the norm, a **News Briefs** section also appears.

*The cover of this Special Issue is a depiction of the 2nd CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum and private sector invitees lending their voice to the EPA implementation narrative, which finds expression through the illustration on the far left of the page.*

EPA Implementation Bulletin's editorial team welcomes your feedback. Please send any comments or suggestions to [nbardouille@caricom.org](mailto:nbardouille@caricom.org)



# f Foreword



This Issue of *EPA Implementation Bulletin* focuses attention on the recently concluded *2nd CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum*, which by all accounts was a resounding success. As the CARIFORUM Region shifts into a higher gear in terms of more consistent, proactive corporate engagement with EPA implementation—be it on a large or small-scale and spanning a range of business activities—the need to heighten firms' use of the Agreement in efforts to tap into the EU market is seen as critically important to 'Making the CARIFORUM-EU EPA Work'. Indeed, this was the theme of the Business

Forum. In delving into the Business Forum, this Issue will bring to light the significance of the meeting and related initiatives in positioning regional private sector operators to better leverage the landmark interregional Agreement. A few articles on other themes also appear in the Issue, drawing attention to developments in EPA implementation.

We offer this edition with the hope that the analysis featured will be of interest and of value to the publication's readership.

Branford Isaacs

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