



CONFIDENTIAL

**THIRTIETH MEETING
OF THE
CONFERENCE OF HEADS
OF GOVERNMENT
OF THE
CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY**

Liliendaal,
Gr. Georgetown, Guyana
2-5 July 2009

**Summary of
Recommendations and
Conclusions**

CHAIRPERSON:

**H.E. Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo
President
Republic of Guyana and
Lead Head of Government
for Agriculture**

VENUE AND DATE:

**Liliendaal
Gr. Georgetown
GUYANA**

2-5 July 2009

With respect to the Common External Tariff (CET),

Having considered this matter in Caucus,

THE CONFERENCE:

Mandated the COTED to review the CET in respect of those goods which are produced in the Region and which are internationally competitive, with a view to reducing the rate.

B.1.7 Free Movement of Persons and Contingent Rights (Prime Minister of Dominica)

THE CONFERENCE:

Re-affirmed the goal of free movement of persons as expressed in **Article 45** of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas;

Recognised that free movement was an essential element of the CSME, but given the current global economic and financial crisis, its full implementation at this point in time will be challenging for some Member States;

Also recognised that, notwithstanding challenges from time to time, the free movement of graduates, artistes, media workers, musicians, sportspersons, teachers, nurses, holders of associate degrees and artisans with a Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) has generally been implemented satisfactorily;

Also re-affirmed that migration was a human right though circumscribed by domestic law, but recognising that the spirit of the Treaty and the requisites of international law demand that all migrants be accorded humane treatment;

Recalled the decision taken at its Twenty-Seventh Meeting (July 2006, St. Kitts and Nevis), that Antigua and Barbuda was granted an exemption on the implementation of the free movement of non-graduate teachers and nurses;

Further re-affirmed that countries must put in place the necessary arrangements to issue the Certificate of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification to CARICOM Nationals, who are eligible for free movement of skills;

Re-affirmed that countries must also put in place the necessary arrangements to issue the Certificate of Registration as a CARICOM Service Provider to service providers, who are moving on a temporary basis, including hucksters and higglers (inter-island traders);

Also re-affirmed that all eligible categories of Skilled Community Nationals must be granted a definite entry of six months if they present their Skills Certificate at a point of entry and have the right to work immediately. During that period (six months) the receiving country has the right to verify the qualifications of the skilled national. Once verification has been completed an indefinite stay shall be granted;

Further re-affirmed that persons who are moving to exercise the right of establishment, the provision of services and the movement of skills have the right to move with their spouse and immediate dependent family members;

Agreed that the schedule of free movement of persons will be reviewed at the CSME Convocation to be convened later this year with a view to advising on the timetable for full free movement;

Also agreed that household domestics who have obtained a CVQ or equivalent qualification will be allowed to move with effect from 1 January 2010;

Further agreed that Contingent Rights are rights which are granted to a CARICOM national and his or her spouse and immediate dependent family members, if the principal beneficiary has exercised the right of establishment, provision of services, movement of capital or free movement of skills;

Agreed that the spouse of the principal beneficiary who has exercised the right of free movement of skills, provision of services or right of establishment, has the right to work without the need to obtain a work permit;

Also agreed on the right to primary education and emergency health care as key elements to be included in a Protocol on Contingent Rights;

Further agreed that temporary service providers will only be entitled to emergency health care;

Noted the concerns of Antigua and Barbuda and Belize with respect to the implementation of their obligations related to the expansion of eligible categories of persons under the free movement of skills regime and the grant of Contingent Rights without the conduct of a socio-economic impact assessment in those Member States;

Agreed that the CARICOM Secretariat will expedite the socio-economic impact study of the migration situation before those Member States are required to sign on to the expansion of household domestics;

Also agreed in light of the above, that the Conference will grant Antigua and Barbuda a five year derogation on the free movement of the new category – household domestics – agreed during this Thirtieth Meeting in order for that Member State to make the necessary adjustments to its infrastructure and other imperatives to facilitate the fulfillment of its Treaty obligations with respect to free movement of skills;

Recalled that Antigua and Barbuda has always implemented a very liberal immigration policy which extended far beyond the approved categories and recognised the efforts of this Member State to streamline its current migration policies.

B 1.8 Impediments to Regional Trade in Goods

THE CONFERENCE:

Agreed that there is urgent need to establish an effective regional regime of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures;

Mandated the COTED to advise on arrangements for the establishment of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), and consider interim arrangements in respect of the functions to be fulfilled by the Agency;

Welcomed and accepted the offer by Suriname since the Twenty-Sixth Special Meeting of the COTED (October 2007, Jamaica) to host the CAHFSA;

Also agreed that Member States shall extend to intra-regional imports of new food products treatment no less favourable than that extended to extra-regional imports of new food products, including risk assessments inspections;

Also mandated the COTED to advise on the proposal that Member States should accept new food products across their border based on the conduct of a sanitary risk assessment and the provision of the SPS certificate by the exporting country;

Further mandated the COTED to advise on a modality for the mutual recognition of SPS certifying authorities among Member States.