

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF TRADE FACILITATION

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

19TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
Port of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago: February 14th 2014

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago: February 14th 2014

Agreement No. 7/14

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The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the preamble to the Convention Establishing the ACS done in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on July 24, 1994, in which Member states declared their intention to promote, consolidate and strengthen the regional cooperation and integration process in the Caribbean Region in order to create an enhanced economic space that will contribute to its more competitive participation in international markets and facilitate active and coordinated participation by the region in various multilateral fora;

Acknowledging that the concept of trade facilitation is an important one for the Member States of the Greater Caribbean Region since it involves the entire trade and productive chain of the region;

Recognising that cooperation among authorities on customs matters is an important means of facilitating trade within the Greater Caribbean Region, shall, subject to their respective domestic laws and consistent with their own policies and procedures;

Bearing in mind the decisions of the XXVI and XXVII Meetings of the ACS Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations in

2011 and 2012, in which Member States agreed to establish working Groups of the Trade Committee on Trade Facilitation;

AGREES TO:

Encourage Member States and Associate Member States to;

1. Share expertise on ways to streamline, simplify and improve customs procedures;
2. Exchange information on best practices relating to customs procedures, application and risk management techniques with the exception of information of a confidential nature regulated in the domestic legislation of each Member and Associate Member State;
3. Facilitate cooperation and exchange of experiences in the application of information technology and improvement of monitoring and inspection systems in customs procedures and other authorities involved in the control of operations of entry, exit and the release of goods;
4. Define the requirements for the exchange of information related to the operations for the entry, exit and release of goods among customs authorities of the countries;
5. Strengthen policies against customs fraud and illicit activities related to international trade operations.
6. Ensure that their customs laws and regulations are published and publicly available, according to the regulations of each Member State and Associate Member;
7. Ensure that their customs procedures, in particular those related to the release of goods, are exchanged among the competent authorities of each Member and Associate Member State.
8. Facilitate future cooperative arrangement initiatives to enhance further the exchange of information; and

9. Move towards the integration of information systems between Member States with a view to utilize best practices in order to update and advance systems and data models.