

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

21st MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 20th and 21st September 2012

DIRECTORATE'S REPORT

I. Introduction

- Approved Work Programme for the 2012-2013 biennium:

During the 20th Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport held in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on June 30th and July 1st, 2011 (Rapporteur's Report, **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/INF.001**), the Secretariat presented its draft Work Programme for the 2012-2013 biennium: "Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea". This document, prepared by the Directorate and the Chair of Transport, was based on the previous version and updated with the inclusion of new initiatives and the exclusion of completed projects. Its structure follows as main guidelines, the 3 strategic objectives of the Transport Directorate and it is integrated by 11 activities organized in the following manner:

1. The implementation or enhancement of the instruments, mechanisms and conditions for improving the efficiency of the transport sector (activities 3.3.1.1, 3.3.1.2, 3.3.1.3 and 3.3.1.4).
2. Promotion and coordination, at a political level, of activities related to improving the efficiency of the transport sector (activities 3.3.2.1, 3.3.2.2, 3.3.2.3, 3.3.2.4 and 3.3.2.5).
3. Collaboration with organizations and initiatives related to Air and Sea Transport (activities 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2).

Consequently, this document was submitted for the consideration of the Members during the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on February 10, 2012. Therefore, the work programme of the Transport Directorate and its corresponding budget, were approved by the adoption of the Ministerial Agreement N° 02/12: "Budget and Administration of the Association of the Caribbean States (ASC) for the period 2012-2013."

The Work Programme for the 2012-2013 biennium is attached with reference N° **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/INF.009**.

- Project portfolio clean-up process

The ACS Secretariat and the Chairman of the Special Committee agreed that it is crucial to carry out specific activities that will provide real benefits to all of the Member States, therefore, sharing the initiative to maintain a portfolio of 3 or 4 projects with viable financing and execution, from which can be obtained results at a medium-term.

Consequently, a clean-up process of the Committee's projects portfolio is being followed and removing from it, those projects that resulted unworkable or lost interest because it was not approved its execution or having approved its execution could not be implemented for some reason.

- Communication Strategy

In this regard, the Transport Directorate is currently working on a communication strategy to make known to the public its projects, and most of all, to give updated information. Currently, the Directorate is preparing new web presentations, quite synthetic of the executing projects that will be available in the three languages of the organization.

On the other hand, it is now available the newsletter dedicated to the transmission of information on the topic of Transport in the Greater Caribbean: "ON THE TRAIL", which first edition was published on November 11, 2011 and its second edition on July 30, 2012 (both editions of the newsletter are available with the following reference n° **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/INF.004a** and **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/INF.004b**).

Finally, what is sought is to expand the media coverage to give more publicity to the activities and events of the Association and of the Special Committee on Transport.

- Updating institutional contacts

In order to achieve greater participation and involvement of Members in the activities and events of the ACS, as well as to explore possibilities for funding of projects, the Transport Directorate began a verification process of institutional contacts for transport (the table of institutional contacts per country is attached with reference N° **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/WP.004**).

II. Synthetic Reports on the implementation of projects

The following provides details on the progress made for the implementation of projects that compose the projects portfolio of the Association of Caribbean States in the area of transport.

Activity 3.4.1.1: Internet-based Port and Maritime Database for the Greater Caribbean

This project was completed, had a total budget of USD\$ 200.000 and a duration of 14 months. Because of its importance, it is suggested to convert it in a permanent activity in which the main task consists in the development of more indicators and to encourage the participation of a greater number of Ports. This will greatly support the implementation of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean as well as the Maritime-Port Strategy.

Activity 3.4.1.2: Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean

- Acknowledgment to the Execution Team for the Work Performed

The Republic of Cuba through the Ministry of Transport has provided leadership in this project, coordinated with the Central American Commission on Transport (COCATRAM). An acknowledgment is made to this coordination work that has allowed the project at the conclusion of its phase I, proceed to the development of the next phase that was launched in the year 2011.

- Additional Funding

On August 24, 2011, the Secretariat, the Director and the Advisor of Transport offered a presentation to the Ambassador of Turkey in Venezuela, where they emphasize on the Project: "Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean". Subsequently, the Government of Turkey granted to the Secretariat of the ACS the sum of USD\$30,000, from which 20 thousand dollars were allocated to the COCATRAM execution team of the Project: "Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean". This was agreed on the 26th Meeting of the Council of National Representatives of the Special Fund of the ACS, held at Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on January 17, 2012 and confirmed by the representatives of ACS Members during the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on February 10, 2012.

- Follow-up Meeting

On October 14, 2011, there was a follow-up meeting of the project "Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean", at the headquarters of the ACS, where Mr. Pedro Suarez Reyes, of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Cuba and Chairman of the Special Committee on Transport of the ACS, and José Dopeso, Director of Maritime and Port Affairs, COCATRAM, shared the progress

on the project “Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean”, specially the new configuration of the online tool (<http://www.cocatram.org.ni/rutas/>). It was also discussed the plan of implementation of the phase II of the project, as well as the use of the additional financial resources obtained from the Government of Turkey.

- Program hosting in the ACS website

During the month of February 2012, the Secretariat officially placed the program: “Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean” on the webpages of the Directorate of Transport, in the three languages. This was the result of a coordination work between the technical personnel of the ACS, COCATRAM and the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Cuba.

- Compilation of information

On February 6, 2012, the Association of Caribbean States and the Central American Commission of Maritime Transport (COCATRAM) prepared and jointly circulated to the Members, a questionnaire with the aim to update and complete the database that compose the dynamic program of the “Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean”.

- Project Promotion

The Secretary General of the ACS, and the Advisor of the Directorate of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, participated in the 17th Conference of the Presidents of the Outermost Region and the Conference of Regional Cooperation in the Greater Caribbean, which took place on November 3rd, 4th and 5th on Fort-de-France, Martinique. In both conferences were presented the progress made on the execution of the project: “Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean”, with the double purpose of promoting it and obtaining the necessary funding to carry it out.

During the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held on Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on February 10, 2012, the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in his Opening Speech, highlighted that “The initiatives of the Special Committee for Transportation to collate and classify data on air, sea and land routes across the region and transportation and ancillary service providers will facilitate the efficient movement of persons, commercial and other cargoes”.

Furthermore, in this meeting, the Ambassador Colin Granderson, Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM identified the Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean, as a critical area that could serve as a base for the cooperation of both Organizations.

Activity 3.4.1.3: Pre-feasibility study to indentify business opportunities for short distance passenger transport and inter cruise and air routes between Central America and the Greater Caribbean, and vice versa.

This project was jointly presented by Costa Rica and COCATRAM during the 20th Meeting of the Special Committee of Transport. Funding for its implementation is still pending, thus the participants of the 21st Meeting of the SCT will consider this matter.

Activity 3.4.1.4: Electronic newsletter

The creation of a Newsletter for the Directorate of Transport was proposed during the 20th Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport in order to strengthen the cooperation and interaction among the ACS' Members, and the international and Regional Organizations, as well as to revitalize the work of the Directorate and to bring greater visibility to the ACS as a whole.

This newsletter gives information on programs and regional projects in the area of Air and Sea transportation in the Greater Caribbean, as well as the perspective of the region experts regarding these issues.

Activity 3.4.1.5: Promote regional commercial cooperation between the airlines whose primary headquarters are located in the territory of the ACS countries.

The document: **“Bases for the Creation of a Trade Cooperation Partnership among Airlines from ACS Countries”** is under revision process. In this regard, during the 20th Meeting of the Special Committee, Colombia proposed to review the document “Bases for the Creation of a Trade Cooperation Partnership among Airlines from ACS Countries” and the “Air Transport Agreement among the Member States and Associate Members” for the purpose of formulating clauses to facilitate alliances among the airlines of those Countries.

For this purpose, it is intended to identify the type of alliances that currently exists among airlines of Member Countries and in that way, to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the region. In that respect consensus has been reached in the ACS regarding the need to promote policies and to establish a uniform regulatory framework that would facilitate commercial cooperation agreements and alliances among the airlines of Member Countries that would include mainly agreements on code sharing and operating agreements and which will allow an increase in the networks of routes and connections.

For this reason, the Head of International and Regulatory Affairs of the Civil Aeronautics Authority of Colombia, Mrs. Claudia Esguerra, will present during the 21st Meeting of the SCT: the “Draft policy to be adopted by the Member States of the ACS regarding partnerships among air carriers” and the “Study on potential

demand for air transport between Member States of the ACS" (reference N° **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/WP.001** and **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/WP.002**).

Activity 3.4.1.6: Port and Maritime Strategy

This initiative presented by the Republic of Cuba during the 20th Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport, was included in the work programme for the period 2012-2013. Then, during the meeting held on October 14, 2011, between the Secretariat of the ACS and the execution team of the project "Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean", the Engineer Pedro Suarez Reyes, from the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Cuba and Chairman of the Special Committee on Transport of the ACS, and José Dopeso, Director of Ports and Maritime Affairs of COCATRAM, made known the project proposal "Port and Maritime Strategy of the Greater Caribbean". This was circulated to the Members, for review and comments on March 13, 2012. (See final version: (see **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/WP.003**).

Activity 3.4.2.1: Promote the Ratification of the "Air Transport Agreement".

This agreement was prepared on February 12, 2004, and entered into force on September 19, 2008. Its latest ratification was from Nicaragua (dated July 12, 2011). Currently ratified by: Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Suriname (see the document with reference N° **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/INF.005**).

Activity 3.4.2.2: Create a strategy to harmonize the regulations of the ACS Member Countries on the granting of operating permits.

The topics to be addressed by the Ministerial Agreement N° 06/08 deal with the diversity or lack of procedures existing within the domestic jurisdiction of Member States and Associate Members as regard the granting of operational permits to airlines. There is no doubt that such a Guide will respond effectively to the requirements of the market for aviation services, will enhance and reinforce the regime set out in the Air Transport Agreement, by leading to the harmonization of the legislative, regulatory and operational procedures.

Activity 3.4.2.3: Total quality in air transport in ACS Member Countries.

This subsequent activity of the Air Transport Agreement, establishes general guidelines that would allow appropriate supervisory measures to be defined in order to attain optimal functioning and balanced development of the air transport. Therefore, in order to attain the highest level of quality, it was created

a standard guide that would define the rights and obligations of users of air transport services and of airport services as well.

In the context of the development of strategies among the different special Committees of the ACS, it is worth mentioning the implementation of two workshops carried out on “the implementation of quality management systems for Meteorological Services at airports”. The first workshop was held in Bridgetown, Barbados on May 9-13, 2011, and the second workshop in St. Lucia on December 5 - 9, 2011.

These workshops helped in the creation of a standardized guideline according to the quality management systems for Meteorological Services at airports (ISO9001:2008), demanded by service providers of civil aviation for 2012.

These workshops also served as the forum for exchanging experiences and lessons learnt in the region and for providing training in all those procedures that must be adopted when organizing early warnings targeting the different sectors of societies and for working in conjunction with disaster management organizations like World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the Canadian Meteorological Service.

For more information, see Progress Report in Quality Control System of regional airlines and airports, with reference number **ACS/2012/TRANS.21/INF.006**

Activity 3.4.2.4: Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport.

The 20th Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was held in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on June 30 and July 1, 2011. The Board of the Special Committee was integrated by Cuba as Chairman, represented by Engineer Pedro Suarez Reyes, and official from the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Cuba, Suriname and Mexico as Vice Chairs, represented by Mr. Michel Amafo, Director of the Maritime Authority of Suriname and Mr. Sergio Luna, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of México in Trinidad y Tobago, respectively, Panama, represented by Mr. Carlos A. Pashales L., Deputy Director General Civil Aviation, in the capacity of Rapporteur. The Meeting was attended by 11 Member States and two observer organizations.

It is presented here a summary table of Member Participation in the Meetings of the Special Committee on Transport of the ACS.

SCT Meeting	Place	Date	Participants			Quorum
			Member States	Associate Members	Other	
15	Havana City, Cuba	September 28 and 29, 2006	12	1	1	Yes
16	Gosier, Guadeloupe (France)	June 19 and 20, 2007	4	1	1	No
17	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,	April 10 and 11, 2008	12	2	1	Yes
18	Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago	September 22 and 23, 2009	10	0	4	No
19	Paramaribo, Republic of Suriname	April 23 and 24, 2010	5	1	4	No
20	Port of Spain, Republic de Trinidad y Tobago	June 30 and July 1, 2011	11	0	2	Yes

As we previously mentioned, we encourage the participation of Members to the Meetings and Activities of the SCT, to address the main challenges existing in the Air and Maritime Transport, within the framework of the work programme of the Association: Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea.

Activity 3.4.2.5: Cooperation with the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism and the Special Committee on Trade on the relevant issues of common interest.

Sustainable Tourism. The Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism now monitors the project "Creation of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destination". However, the Directorate on Transport continues to support with this initiative. During the 20th Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport, the Director of Sustainable Tourism of the ACS presented the progress made on the "Creation of the Association of Caribbean Cruise Ship Destination". This

presentation was received with great satisfaction by the participants for the progress achieved.

Similarly, it was proposed that during the 21st Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport, the Directorate of Sustainable Tourism presents an initiative and/or projects of common interest between both Directorates with the purpose of developing synergies and avoiding the duplication of efforts.

Trade and External Economic Relations. During the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on February 10, 2012, the Chairman of the Special Committee on Trade and External Economic Relations of the Association of Caribbean States, the Ministry of Commerce and Industries of Panama, suggested to invite the Chairman of the Special Committee on Transport of the ACS to the next meeting of the Special Committee on Trade in order to illustrate to the members, the progress of the project Map of Maritime Routes in the Greater Caribbean.

Reciprocally, it was proposed that during the 21st Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport, the Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations presents an initiative and/or projects of common interest between both Directorates with the purpose of developing synergies and avoiding the duplication of efforts.

Activity 3.4.3.1: Develop cooperation and joint activities with regional and international organizations involved in Transport.

Lately, the Directorate of Transport of the Association of Caribbean States began discussions with the Infrastructure Service Unit of ECLAC, in order to jointly coordinate future activities. The identified topics of this synergy will address, for example, Port movement of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Activity 3.4.3.2: Participation in the meetings of regional and international organizations involved in Transport.

Up to date, the Directorate on Transport has not participated in any of these meetings of regional and international organizations on Transport, during the period of interest of this report.

III. Other Important Issues

In the preparation of the 5th Summit of the Heads of States and/or Government of the ACS, to be held in Haiti, on April 23-26, 2012, and whose theme would be "Revitalizing the Vision of the Association of Caribbean States For a Stronger and more United Greater Caribbean", the Secretariat of the ACS is preparing a draft **Declaration** and a **Plan of Action**. In this regard, comments and suggestions from the Special Committee on Transport could contribute to these documents.