

Strengthening the development of transport in the Greater Caribbean



Alfonso Múnera,
Secretary General of the ACS

As part of the commitment made by the ACS to promote regional co-operation and coordination among Member States and Associate Members, I am delighted to highlight the work that the Transport Directorate of the ACS has been carrying out in recent years, since everyone is well aware of the pivotal role that Transport plays as the core element for developing and strengthening regional ties, especially in the fields of tourism and trade, focal areas of our Organisation.

According to our present reality, taking into account the fact that the area of Transport is a challenge in the Region and in order to bring to fruition what is on paper, the Secretariat is following the guidelines

presented by the Chairman, whose goal is to carry out specific activities that would yield real benefits for all Member States, thus, we share the initiative to maintain a portfolio of 3 or 4 projects with viable financing and execution, from which we can obtain results in the medium term.

It is therefore my pleasure to encourage you to participate actively by presenting proposals and ideas and to also remain in permanent contact with the Transport Directorate should you have any query or pertinent input. In that respect, it is also my honour to invite you to attend the upcoming Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport that is carded for September 20-21 in Port of Spain, at which we are expecting ultimate participation from everyone.



Transport Directorate Team, from left to right: Mathieu Fontanaud, Sandra Fonseca Morales, Eduardo González, Catalina Bastidas and Olivia Confiac.

The web application is now on the ACS website

The original idea for this project arose in 1999 during the 3rd Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport (SCT) of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), as a result of the proposal put forward by Mr. Pedro Suárez Reyes, representing the Delegation of Cuba, current Chairman of the Special Committee on Transport, as one of the principal actions promoted at the Meeting of the ACS Ministerial Council for "Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea".

This was developed thanks to the successive acquisition of funds from the Republic of Korea (US\$35,000.00 in 2007 to execute the first phase of the Project) and from the Government of the Republic of Turkey (US\$35,000.00 in 2010



and US\$20,000.00 in 2012) to execute the second phase of the project. 167 services are being applied, distributed over 55 shipping lines, serviced by 557 vessels, in 37 countries and 71 ports in the

Greater Caribbean, with a capacity of 1,275,179 TEU's; of which 138,087 are refrigerated containers.

[Discover the project!](#)



2nd Workshop for the implementation of quality management systems for meteorological services at airports

The primary objective of this workshop, which was held in St. Lucia on December 5-9, 2011, was to give all the participating organisations belonging to the small island developing states (SIDS) of the Caribbean, a clear picture of the actual implementation of quality management systems for meteorological services at airports, since, according to ISO 2001-2008 standards, such systems will be mandatory for aviation services in the coming years.

This workshop 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 organising early warnings targeting the

different sectors of societies and for working in conjunction with disaster management organisations like the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO), the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the Canadian Meteorological Service.



Participants of the ACS Workshop, St. Lucia, December 2011.

21st Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport

Transport

ACS AEC
ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES
ASOCIACION DE ESTADOS DEL CARIBE
ASSOCIATION DES ETATS DE LA CARAIBE

XXI Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport
XXI Reunión del Comité Especial de Transporte
XXI Réunion du Comité spécial sur le Transport

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, 20th and 21st September 2012

The 21st Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport will be convened on September 20-21, 2012, at the ACS Headquarters in Port of Spain.

The Meeting will address mainly:

- Maps of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean,
- The Maritime-Port Strategy,
- The Air Transport Agreement,
- Commercial co-operation among the airlines of the region.

Colombia: initiative to consolidate air alliances among member countries

During the 20th MEETING OF THE ACS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on June 30 and July 1, 2011, a proposal was put forward at Colombia's initiative, to revise the Air Transport Agreement among Member States and Associate Members, for the purpose of formulating clauses to facilitate alliances among the airlines of those countries. Thus, efforts are being undertaken to dynamise the actions of the Special Committee, deciding toward that end, that Colombia, Costa Rica and the ACS Chair would be responsible for identifying the types of alliances that currently exist among the airlines of Member Countries, and in that way, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the region.



20th Meeting of the ACS Special Committee on Transport in Port of Spain.

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 co-operation agreements and alliances among the airlines of Member Countries that would include mainly agreements on code sharing and operating agreements and which would allow an increase in the networks of routes and connections.

Overall view of alliances in air transport in Latin America, by Claudia Esguerra Barragán*

During its almost one hundred years of history, Colombian air transport has been an essential component for the country's development. In the domestic arena, the air communication needs among the different regions are evident, given the distances and mobilisation times of other modes, the problems concerning safety in ground channels, the gradual development of several urban centres that have transformed Colombia into a demographically distributed country, all of which has been helped by the isolation of many of the country's regions. In the international domain, its geographic position and leading role in international trade, boosted by the trends of opening up and globalising the economy, intensified over the last decade, have also translated into significant demands for air transport, in order to mobilise products, business people and tourism flows [...]

The so-called deregulation that was adopted in the United States in 1978, led to a new trend in the international air transport market, which began to be governed by more open commercial air agreements and with less intervention from the authority, thereby facilitating intense competition among airlines, where economies of scale are clearly determining factors in competitiveness. In that process, the size of the market and the creation of increasingly extensive networks, are key in order to ensure survival in a more open and more competitive international market, hence the reason why alliances among airlines are the order of the day as a competitive strategy in the current global aviation market and are playing more and more a crucial role in the development of aviation in Latin America. [Read more](#)

***Claudia Esguerra Barragán is the Head of International Affairs in Civil Aeronautics Authority of Colombia.**

Relevant websites



Participate!

The Directorate for Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction invites you to participate in our newsletter by means of writing articles and sending pictures for the next edition.

Contacts:

Eduardo José González Angulo
Director
Email: egonzalez@acs-aec.org

Mathieu Fontanaud
Asesor
Email: mfontanaud@acs-aec.org

Catalina Bastidas
Asistente de Investigación
Email: cbastidas@acs-aec.org

Olivia Confíac
Asistente de Investigación
Email: oonfíac@acs-aec.org

Sandra Fonseca Morales
Secretaria

General Information

What is The AEC?

The ACS is a product of the desire of the 28 Contracting States, Countries and Territories of the Greater Caribbean to enhance cooperation within the region, an initiative aimed at building upon obvious geographic proximity and well-documented historical linkages. [Read more](#)

What is the DT?

The Directorate for Transport of the ACS was conceived as an instrument for tackling the main challenges encountered by air and maritime transport in the framework of the Association's programme: Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea. [Read more](#)

What is the SCT?

The Special Committee on Transport is a technical organ which aim is to facilitate the functioning of the Ministerial Council. This entity brings together Representatives of Members Countries in order to discuss topics and projects regarding the development of Transport in the Greater Caribbean. [Read more](#)



ACS Headquarters , St. Clair, Port of Spain.

"ON THE TRAIL" has been conceived in order to strengthen co-operation between ACS Members States, international and regional Organisations as well as with Observer Countries. It provides information concerning regional programs and activities in the field of air and sea transport.



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Please send questions/comments/suggestions to:
5-7 Sweet Briar Road, St. Clair, P.O. Box 660, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies
Tel: (868) 622 9575 | Fax: (868) 622 1653

mail@acs-aec.org <http://www.acs-aec.org>