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ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

XXII MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, October 25, 2013

Directorate's Report

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I. Introduction

- 1) The XXII Special Committee for Transport took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, September 20-21, 2012. The Meeting was attended by 14 Member States and 1 observer organization.
- 2) The Directorate for Transport has undergone changes in its composition.
 - a) The tenure of former director, Mr. Eduardo José González Angulo, came to an end on the 31st May, 2013. He served as Director for Transport at the ACS for three years.
 - b) Mr. George Nicholson assumed directorship of the Directorate for Transport on June 24th, 2013.
 - c) Ms. Nayaatha Taitt has joined the Directorate for Transport in the capacity of Research Assistant.
 - d) Mr. Mathieu Fontanaud ended his three year term as Advisor for Transport at the ACS on October 02nd, 2013.
- 3) The V Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of ACS took place in Pétiion Ville, Haiti, 23rd-26th April, 2013. During this summit, the following documents were adopted to guide the work of the ACS:
 - a) Declaration of Pétiion Ville, whose Article 28 recommends the further development of the various modes of transportation by land, air and sea transport, as well as air and sea connectivity which contribute to strengthening the unification of the nations of the Greater Caribbean.
 - b) Plan of Action of Pétiion Ville whose points 3.1 to 3.6 indicate the actions that will be undertaken in air and maritime transport which might contribute, in an effective manner, to the expansion of intra-Caribbean trade and investment, multi-destination tourism, as well as functional cooperation in general among the Member States and Associate Members of the ACS.
 - c) Matrix of Activities which details the modalities for the implementation of the projects listed in the Plan of Action.

II. Progress made on projects as defined in the Plan of Action of Pétiion Ville

- 1) Maps of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean

- a) There has been the continued successful implementation of the project “Maps of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean” with the same stakeholders (Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Cuba, COCATRAM, AMP)
 - b) USD\$25 000 was received from the Government of Turkey and transferred to COCATRAM for the execution of Phase III of the project:
 - c) Inclusion in the Programme a description of all the main ports in the Greater Caribbean. So far Maps of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean includes ports of Central America.
 - d) Cooperation with RAC REMPEITC/Caribe based in Curacao, an organisation as outlined in Activity 3.6 of the Plan of Action of Pétion Ville.
- 2) The Port and Maritime Strategy of the Greater Caribbean
- a) This project has been supported by a contribution of €125,000.00 from the French Agency for Development (AFD)
 - b) The consultancy is expected to run for approximately six (6) months ending with the results being presented at a seminar in Cartagena Columbia in spring 2014.
 - c) In accordance with the terms of the cooperation agreement with the AFD, approval was received for the issuance of a request for proposal for the project. This was circulated to a selected short-list of consultants, Member States and also placed on the ACS website
 - d) The Directorate awaits the return of the proposals to continue the procurement process.
- 3) Air Transport Agreement among Member States and Associate Members of the Association of Caribbean States
- 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. The Directorate continues to urge Member States to ratify the agreement. (Annex 1)
- 4) Commercial Co-operation Partnerships and Alliances among the Airlines of ACS Countries

The document: **“Bases for the Creation of a Trade Cooperation Partnership among Airlines from ACS Countries”** is under review. For this reason, the Head of International and Regulatory Affairs of the Civil Aeronautics Authority of Colombia, Mrs. Claudia Esguerra, presented during the XXI 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”.

It is intended to identify the type of alliances that currently exists among airlines of Member Countries, thus evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the region. In that respect, consensus has been reached within 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. These would mainly include agreements on code sharing and operating agreements and would allow an increase in the networks of routes and connections.

An ad hoc working committee comprising Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago was established to advance the project however the group has not produced a report.

A decision will need to be taken whether or not this activity should remain on the Directorates work plan 2014-14

- 5) Co-operation with Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism and the Special Committee on Trade on the relevant issues of common interest

The Directorate continues to liaise with the Directorate of Sustainable Tourism and the Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations on matters that are of common interest.

- 6) Develop cooperation and joint activities with regional and international organizations involved in Transport

The Director and Advisor met with the Cdr Gilmore of Rac/REMPETIC to examine how to further cooperate on issues going forward, particularly with respect to the issue of marine pollution.

7) Participation in various Meetings, training courses and workshops

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

Name of Meeting	Date
Meeting with Sr. IMO Consultant of RAC/REMPEITC- Caribe to strengthen cooperation in the area of man-made disasters that threaten the Caribbean Sea.	22 July, 2013

III. Communications Strategy

The ACS continues to strive towards better communication with member states and partner organisations and in this regard the directorate is looking at its communication in the context of the wider communication strategy. In keeping with this general strategy the directorate will be contributing one article monthly for publication in the Business Guardian and in regional newspapers. Discussion with the officers responsible for communication will see the development of an online magazine. It is expected that the newsletter previously produced will be wrapped up in this general newsletter. Member states are encouraged to send information regarding critical transport issues to the Directorate so this may be included in the online magazine.

The magazine will be available on the ACS website.

IV. Conclusion

The progress made by the Directorate for Transport in carrying out its mandate is indeed laudable. Notwithstanding, this success would by no means have been possible without the active involvement of ACS Member States and partner organisations. In this regard, the Directorate extends its thanks for your participation and looks forward to your continued support.

Annex 1

“Air Transport Agreement among the Member States and Associate Member States of the Association of Caribbean States.”

Introduction:

It was signed by ACS Member States during the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the States and Territories of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Santo Domingo de Guzman, Dominican Republic, on 17 of April 1999.

1. Status of ratification

There is a requirement that sixty (60) days after one-third or nine (9) of the twenty-five (25) Member States deposit instruments of ratification in relation to the Agreement for it to enter into force. To date there are sixteen (16) ratifications with fourteen (14) of those coming from Member States, bringing the requirement to date to three (3).

Members	Ratification	Members	Ratification
Antigua and Barbuda		Guyana	
Netherlands Antilles	21/04/2006	Haiti	13/07/2009
Aruba	21/04/2006	Honduras	
Bahamas		Jamaica	28/07/2005
Barbados	26/11/2004	Nicaragua	12/07/2011
Belize	28/07/2005	Panama	14/07/2005
Colombia		Venezuela	24/10/2007
Costa Rica		Dominican Republic	
Cuba	10/09/2007	France	
Dominica		Saint Kitts and Nevis	
		St Vincent and the Grenadines	
		Saint Lucia	
Grenada		Suriname	26/10/2007

Guatemala	03/09/2008		Trinidad and Tobago	
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