



PRESS RELEASE

EU Trade Commissioner Visits Trinidad and Tobago

July 15, 2015, Port-of Spain: En route to the THIRD MEETING of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council under the Economic Partnership Agreement in Georgetown Guyana, EU Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström made a visit to Trinidad and Tobago on July 15, 2015. Accompanied by the EU Ambassador to Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Dutch Overseas Countries and Territories, Mr. Robert Kopecký, Commissioner Malmström paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister, Mrs Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, and later met with Trinidad and Tobago's Climate Change negotiator, Head of the Multilateral Environment Agreements Unit of the Ministry of the Environment and Water, in the context of the Paris, 2015, Climate Change Conference public diplomacy initiatives. EU Member States' Heads of Missions resident in Trinidad and Tobago and the Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) were also present.



At the meeting with the Prime Minister, Commissioner Malmström applauded the Country's strong economic and social stability and reinforced the EU's commitment to a continued partnership with Trinidad and Tobago.

She encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to continue and enhance its role as a driver for regional integration and implementation of the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement and she expressed hope for continued implementation and prompt ratification of the Agreement. She also signalled the EU's interest in deepening trade with Trinidad and Tobago, indicating that European companies were seeking opportunities offered here and not only in the energy sector.

For her part, the Prime Minister thanked the Commissioner for the EU's efforts in securing the Schengen Visa Waiver with Trinidad and Tobago and she also shared with the Commissioner some of the country's diversification plans.



The Commissioner was given the opportunity to witness first hand the Carbon Emissions mitigation efforts of the Trinidad and Tobago's public transportation sector with a ride on a low-emission, Compressed Natural Gas bus. She was reassured of the Country's commitment to a binding agreement through the imminent announcement of the country's contributions to combat Climate Change. Finally, the Commissioner was briefed on the Country's elevation to EITI compliance status and how such a significant achievement could be used to enhance further good environmental governance in the oil and gas sector.



The Commissioner then travelled to Guyana to attend the Third Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council where the parties undertook a review of the first five years of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. The EU was represented at that meeting by

Commissioner Malmström and Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, in representation of the Council of the European Union.

###

CONTACT:

Karen Sheppard
Press and Information Officer
Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago
Sagicor Financial Centre, 16 Queen's Park West, Level 2
Port of Spain, Trinidad
Telephone: +1 868 622 6628, ext. 39
Fax: +1 868 622 6355
Mobile: +1 868 759 5926
Email: Karen.sheppard@eeas.europa.eu