

CARICOM COMPETITION COMMISSION
2017 WORK PROGRAMME - FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE

Goal/Objectives	Input	Activities	Output	Outcome/Expected Outcome
PART A- COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY				
Article 173(1) (a) – “apply the rules of competition in respect of anti-competitive cross-border business conduct”	A. Monitoring business activity in the CSME.	a) Continued investigation into the CWC/Columbus Agreement, by engaging the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authorities (NTRCs) in the OECS Member States, and the parties to the CWC/Columbus Agreement. b) Extended the timeframe for the completion of the investigation due to delays in submission of data from some stakeholders.	a) At the completion of the investigation, a recommendation will be made by the Investigating Panel to the Chairman regarding whether an offence has been committed, the nature of the offence, and whether an enquiry should be undertaken.	1. Greater awareness of the role of the Commission in prohibiting anti-competitive cross-border business conduct in the CSME. 2. Increased knowledge by both the public and private sector about anti-competitive business conduct in the CSME. 3. Potential anti-competitive business conduct in CSME addressed. 4. Jurisprudence in the area of competition law further enhanced in the CSME.

2017WORK PROGRAMME – FIRST QUARTER PERFROMANCE

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Article 173(1) (b) – “promote and protect competition in the Community and co-ordinate the implementation of the Community Competition Policy;”	A. Monitoring business activity in the CSME in. Collaboration with the Barbados Fair Trading Commission and Jamaica Fair Trading Commission, relating to the beer sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completed analysis of available data. b) Prepared a draft report for consideration of members of the CARICOM Competition Network (CCN). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Commission has a better understanding of the factors driving competition in the beer sector in the CSME. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Competition enforcement guidance for national competition authorities and the Commission for future investigations relating to the beer sector.
	B. Collaboration between the CCN, government institutions, and key stakeholders from private and non-government sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reviewed the timeframe for conducting research on Product Market Regulatory Indicators (PMIs) in the CSME. b) Discussed preparation of technical proposal for funding of research on PMIs, for submission to the OECD/IADB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Revised scope of the project proposal for funding with OECD/IADB. b) Prepared a draft proposal seeking technical/financial support from the OECD /IADB in order to conduct research into PMIs in the CSME. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of a database of regulatory practices that affect product market competition in the CSME. 2. The identification of trends in the application of the regulatory practices that impact product market competition in the region. 3. The extent to which the regulatory arrangements in CARICOM impact on the region’s economic growth will be assessed.

2017WORK PROGRAMME – FIRST QUARTER PERFROMANCE

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				<p>4. The indicators will be subject to peer review by national administrators in the Member States as a transparency mechanism.</p>
<p>Article 173 (2) (c) - “promote the establishment of institutions and the development and implementation of harmonized competition laws and practices by the Member States to achieve uniformity in the administration of applicable rules”</p>	<p>A. Collaboration between the CCN, and the banking sectors in Suriname and Guyana.</p> <p>B. Collaboration between the Commission and the Guyana Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission (CCAC).</p>	<p>a) Analyzed data received from the banking sectors in Suriname and Guyana.</p> <p>a) Discussions held with the Director of CCAC regarding training for staff and Commissioners of the CCAC, on CCC’s Rules of Procedure, as well as legal doctrines supporting Rules in CARICOM Member States.</p>	<p>b) Draft Report completed for internal review by the Commission.</p> <p>a) Completed presentation for training of staff and Commissioners of the CCAC on CARICOM Competition Policy specific to Guyana.</p>	<p>1. Increased knowledge and understanding about the state of competition in the commercial banking sector in Guyana and Suriname.</p> <p>1. Increased awareness by the CCAC regarding the CC’s Rules of Procedure, and CARICOM Competition Policy.</p>

2017WORK PROGRAMME – FIRST QUARTER PERFROMANCE

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	C. Review of the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the legal and institutional framework for the enforcement of competition policy.	a) Research undertaken to identify and collate technical reports to support approval and establishment of the OECS Eastern Caribbean Competition Commission (ECCC).	a) Technical reports submitted to OECS Commission.	1. OECS Commission in a better position to make a determination about the establishment and operation of the ECCC.
Article 173 (2) (e) “cooperate with competent authorities in the Member States	A. Coordinated actions between the Commission and the NCAs through the forum of the CCN on collection of data from commercial banks in their respective member states.	a) Prepared papers for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Competition Forum (LACCF) in Nicaragua on the following themes: i. Addressing competition challenges in financial markets. ii. Merger Control in Latin America and the Caribbean - Recent Developments and Trends.	a) Papers submitted to the LACCF Secretariat for publishing on meeting web page. i. Financial markets https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP/LACF(2017)26/en/pdf i. Mergers and Acquisitions https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP/LACF(2017)26/en/pdf	1. Strengthening the relationship between CCN members in CARICOM.

2017WORK PROGRAMME – FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE

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Article 173 (2) (e) Cont'd	B. Interaction with OECD/LACCF Secretariat to get feedback on submissions from CCN	a) Prepared presentation highlighting major findings of the research into competition in the commercial banking sector and the interactions between competition authorities and sector regulators in CARICOM	iii) Presentation on research findings into commercial Banking sector https://www.slideshare.net/OECD-DAF/interactions-between-competition-authorities-and-sector-regulators-in-caricom-kusha-haraksingh-2017-latin-american-and-caribbean-competition-forum	1. Strengthening the relationship between NCAs in CARICOM and Latin America through knowledge sharing.
Article 173.2 (h) “develop and disseminate information about competition policy, and consumer protection policy”	A. CARIFORUM Secretariat EPA implementation unit 10 th EDF project “ Capacity Building within the CARIFORUM in the areas of competition, public procurement, and customs and trade facilitation in support of the implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)’ project.	a) Prepared training materials on the basics of competition law and policy, and delivered Level 1 Training to Parliamentarians in Guyana in February 2017. b) Completed presentation for prepared for Level 1 Training for the Bahamas	a) Parliamentarians sensitized/trained in the basics of competition law and policy as it pertains to national and regional development. b) Commission prepared to deliver training workshop in the Bahamas, when a date is agreed by the stakeholders.	1. Increased awareness about the importance of competition for the proper functioning of national and regional markets.

2017WORK PROGRAMME – FIRST QUARTER PERFROMANCE

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<p>Article 173.2 (h) Cont'd</p>	<p>B. Collaboration between the Commission and the Suriname Chamber of Commerce (KKF).</p>	<p>a) Convened a meeting with representatives of KKF to discuss the needs of its members with respect to training in the area of Community Competition policy</p>	<p>a) Prepared presentation for future training of KKF members.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness by the Commission about the needs, concerns and interests of the business community in Suriname. 2. Members of the business community in Suriname trained/sensitized in the area of competition law and policy. 3. Strengthened relationship between the Commission and the business sector in Suriname.

2017WORK PROGRAMME – FIRST QUARTER PERFROMANCE

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PART B- CONSUMER WELFARE AND PROTECTION				
<p>Article 186 – “provide support in the promotion of consumer welfare and protection of consumer interests”.</p>	<p>A. Collaboration with national government consumer organisations and consumer NGOs in Member States to promote World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) 2017.</p>	<p>a) Prepared, and published on the Commission’s website , a statement for WCRD 2017 based on the theme “Building a digital age consumers can trust”.</p> <p>b) Compiled, and published on the Commission’s website, a list of regional activities executed by National Consumer Organisation and NGOs in support of WCRD 2017.</p> <p>c) Participated in a celebration for WCRD 2017 in Suriname, hosted by Consumentenkring in cooperation with the Telecommunications Authority of Suriname (TAS) and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Suriname.</p>	<p>a) Raised awareness in Suriname and the CARICOM Member States about the importance of consumer rights, specifically about the importance of the rights of consumers in a digital environment.</p>	<p>1. The need to implement/strengthen measures nationally and regionally, relating to consumer issues in a digital environment.</p>