



# PRESS RELEASE

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## CARICOM grants trade concession to Haiti

*(CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana)* Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Trade Ministers have agreed on the goods that Haiti will be able to export within the Single Market on a non-reciprocal preferential basis for three years.

Haiti had made the request in May at the Thirtieth Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) in Georgetown. The Ministers had agreed to the request and CARICOM Heads of Government had endorsed the agreement.

An initial list comprising 42 items was agreed to after discussions at the Thirty-First Ministerial Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) which concluded in Georgetown on Friday.

Member States will continue consultations towards approval of the additional items from an original list which Haiti submitted. Among the items agreed to are, paintings and drawings, peanut butter, corn flour, wooden table ware and kitchenware, basket work and cocoa beans. The concession becomes effective from 1 January 2011.

Haiti's request was high on COTED's agenda and speakers at the formal opening of the two-day Meeting made reference to the situation in Haiti and called for speedy response to the request.

Chair of the Meeting, Senator Joanne Massiah, Minister of State in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda said that Haiti posed unique challenges and that in addition to supporting the temporary concessionary request, the Council should also map the technical assistance requirement of Haiti for their eventual participation in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The Hon Jennifer Webster, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Guyana, said that with its mandate from the Heads of Government the Meeting should move on Haiti's request.

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