

Cariforum – EU trade relations

Enhancing trade with Europe

Preferential Access since 1975

- 25 years of Caribbean preferential access
- 98.5 per cent of exports enter the EU duty free
- The 2008 Economic Partnership Agreement
- Despite this export led growth remains slow

Slow progress under the EPA

- Five per cent on average per annum since 2003
- Some improvement since 2008
- The Dominican Republic the main beneficiary
- Only 45% of exports are manufactured or processed
- Even fewer have high value added content

Opportunities exist

- Real opportunities exist in the EU for valued added products and services, but....
- Market access problems persist for services
- Central America and others moving more rapidly
- Continuing impediments at a regional level

Enhancing export opportunity

- Its time to enhance export opportunity
- Pick winners, recognise the role of profit
- Think differently
- Think creatively about location
- Focus on comparative advantage

Enhancing export opportunity

- Create linkages with already viable sectors such as tourism
- Build on smallness: leverage existing success
- Address non tariff barriers
- A Caribbean trading house in Europe?

Enhancing export opportunity

- Encourage a new generation of regionally committed business leaders
- Seek to better educate EU officials
- Change public-private sector institutional arrangements
- Create new modes of working

Enhancing export opportunity

- This forum: a realistic and important new start