

ACS PROMOTES MARITIME PORT DEVELOPMENT



Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (September 30th 2014) - The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) through the Directorate of Transport will convene the 23rd Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport at the ACS Headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on October 1st, 2014.

The Honourable Stephen Cadiz, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is expected to deliver introductory remarks during the opening ceremony, which will commence at 9am. The Honourable Dr. Morais Guy, Minister without Portfolio (Housing), Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing of Jamaica, will also address attendees during the opening ceremony followed by H.E. Alfonso Múnera, Secretary General of the ACS and Engineer Pedro Suarez Reyes, Ministry of Transport of Cuba.

Following the approval of the Draft Agenda, the Director of Transport, George Nicholson, will present the Directorate's Report together with a Report on the Project: Port and Maritime Strategy of the Greater Caribbean. This project examines current and future trends in the port and maritime arena in the Caribbean basin, and will propose a plan of strategic actions to guarantee sustained port development, which would meet the expectations of the region and ensure that it enjoys global competitive status.

Progress made on the project, Maps of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean will also be presented by the Central American Commission on Transport (COCATRAM). This project which is currently in its second phase, seeks to update the database created on maritime shipping routes, as well as conduct research and analysis on the various active maritime routes. This map allows exporters, importers, vendors or buyers, both internationally and regionally to know when, how, through which operators and under what conditions they may transport their goods.

Representatives from organisations such as the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC), will present on the work of this organisation, and the Antilles Branch of the Computerized Exchange Centre (CEIBA), will present on the BECCA database for shipping freight in the Caribbean Basin.

Mr. George Nicholson will conclude the meeting with a discussion of the Directorate's work programme for the period 2015-2016.