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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce & Trade

News Release

ECONOMIC E.P.A. SENSITISATION SEMINAR

May 6th, 2008:

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade – Sir Louis Straker, will deliver the feature address this Thursday, at the opening of a two-day seminar to sensitise stakeholders on issues relating to the Economic Partnership Agreement, the E.P.A.

Negotiations between the CARIFORUM Region and the European Union ended with an Agreement being initialled in December last, paving the way for the implementation stage of the Agreement.

The opening ceremony will also be addressed by the Regional Trade policy Adviser at the O.E.C.S. Secretariat – Mr. Allan Paul, the President of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce – Mr. Jerry George, and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade – Mrs. Patricia Martin. It takes place at Grenadines House at Kingstown Park and from 9.00 a.m. Thursday (May 8th).

The seminar, organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade will focus on trade in goods only and will be facilitated by CARIFORUM's Lead Negotiator on Market Access – Mr. Brandford Isaacs.

A similar seminar looking at trade in services will be held here next month. The series of seminars is seeking to ensure that the region is positioned to maximise the opportunities offered under the E.P.A.