



**EUROCHAMTT**



*Member of the European  
Business Organization (EBO)  
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# THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS CHAMBER IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (**EUROCHAMTT**) on

## *BREXIT: Implications for Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Region*

*Panel Discussion at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), The University of the West Indies (UWI), Tuesday July 5, 2016, The Noor Hassanali Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine Campus*

# Introduction

The European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago (EUROCHAMTT) is a non-profit membership driven organisation promoting European business interests in Trinidad and Tobago. EUROCHAMTT was registered on February 21st, 2013 and provides market access support to EU businesses and professionals, facilitates networking and partnerships, provides advocacy and engages in special projects to improve the trade and investment environment. EUROCHAMTT also supports Trinidad and Tobago businesses and professionals seeking to gain access to European partners and opportunities for doing more business with Europe.



# Our Main Concern is the Business Environment in Trinidad and Tobago with or without BREXIT

- Need for No less favourable treatment of Non-Caricom investors. **Review Foreign Investment Act.**
- Access to specialized skills. **Review Work Permit regulations.**
- Customs and port procedures and associated costs. **Review overtime charges.**
- Government procedures( Registrations, Licences).Improvement **with TT BIZ Link.**
- Government Procurement. **Need to modernise practices still being used.**
- Approach to financing infrastructure and other social goods. **More PPP.**
- Adoption of International standards and norms. Need to **Invest in Testing Facilities**
- Need for regional integration to work especially for trade and free movement of workers



# Trade, Investment and Development Frameworks with the EU and UK

## EU Trade, Investment and Development Framework

- Cotonou Agreement
- EU-CARIFORUM EPA

## UK Trade, Investment and Development Framework

- Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the **Promotion and Protection of Investments**, October 1993
- **Double taxation agreement**
- **The Commonwealth**
- **DFID**



# Current Trade with EU and UK

According to EU Export Helpdesk database,

- EU imports a value of 1,131,463.0 - (EUR 1000s) from Trinidad and Tobago based on 2015 data, of which over 95% is energy sector related;
- Trading partners importing the highest values from Trinidad and Tobago are Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, France, Germany and UK.
- For the non – energy sector, products such as rum, beer, soft drinks, cocoa - the UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland and Malta are among the trading partners.

**Conclusion: Trading partners are diversifying**



## IMPORT VALUE BY EU 28 FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2015

Product	Label	Import value	%	Import qty	Main Importing Countries
		(1000 EUR)		(1000 Kg)	
		2015		2015	
290511	methanol 'methyl alcohol'	398,903.4	35.26%	1,390,036.0	Netherlands, France, Belgium, Spain, Italy
271111	natural gas, liquefied	374,193.5	33.07%	1,211,591.0	Spain, Netherlands, UK
720310	ferrous products obtained by direct reduction of iron ore, in lumps, pellets or s	106,586.7	9.42%	754,303.0	Spain, Germany
310280	mixtures of urea and ammonium nitrate in aqueous or ammoniacal solution (e	93,425.2	8.26%	473,413.0	France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, UK
281410	anhydrous ammonia	43,626.5	3.86%	109,505.0	Belgium, France and Germany
270900	petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	30,851.9	2.73%	82,048.0	Netherlands, Belgium
271019	medium oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals, not conta	22,825.5	2.02%	42,291.0	France, UK
271012	light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90%	10,093.4	0.89%	29,638.0	Belgium
293361	melamine	8,531.9	0.75%	8,308.0	Italy, Spain, Belgium
310210	urea, whether or not in aqueous solution (excl. that in pellet or similar forms, i	7,249.2	0.64%	25,966.0	France, Spain
220840	rum and other spirits obtained by distilling fermented sugar-cane products	5,379.0	0.48%	6,431.0	Netherlands, UK, France, Poland, Belgium
711292	waste and scrap of platinum, incl. metal clad with platinum, and other waste a	3,518.7	0.31%	0.0	Germany
210390	preparations for sauces and prepared sauces; mixed condiments and seasonin	2,979.5	0.26%	264.0	UK, Netherlands, France, Germany
271113	butanes, liquefied (excl. of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane)	2,862.7	0.25%	6,700.0	France
220890	ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength of < 80% vol, not denatured; spirits and o	1,850.4	0.16%	304.0	Netherlands, Sweden
271490	bitumen and asphalt, natural; asphaltites and asphaltic rocks	1,667.8	0.15%	3,550.0	Germany
721391	bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of iron or non-alloy steel,	1,664.8	0.15%	3,202.0	France
220300	beer made from malt	1,621.1	0.14%	1,304.0	France, UK, Greece, Sweden, Netherlands
843143	parts for boring or sinking machinery of subheading 8430.41 or 8430.49, n.e.s.	772.0	0.07%	6.0	UK, Spain, Romania, Portugal
99PPPO	goods carried by post, not elsewhere classified	671.4	0.06%	0.0	UK
220710	undenatured ethyl alcohol, of actual alcoholic strength of >= 80%	666.3	0.06%	495.0	UK, Spain
99RRR1	returned goods, not elsewhere classified	607.6	0.05%	13.0	Germany, Denmark, Italy
220210	waters, incl. mineral and aerated, with added sugar, sweetener or flavour, for	605.8	0.05%	581.0	France, UK
180100	cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted	603.6	0.05%	123.0	Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium,
180631	chocolate and other preparations containing cocoa, in blocks, slabs or bars of <	472.5	0.04%	76.0	Ireland, Malta



# Development / Partnership Programmes

## Cotonou Agreement:

- Started in 2000, ***Expected to end in 2020***
- Comprehensive partnership agreement between the EU and 79 ACP countries
- Designed to promote development, political cooperation and economic and trade cooperation
- Funding from the EDF

**Conclusion: coming to an end in 2020**



# Development / Partnership Programmes

## EDF – European Development Fund

- Main instrument for providing EU Aid funds to the ACP and Overseas Territories (OCTs).
- It does not come from the EU budget but is funded separately from contributions from member states based on GNI key for the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF.
- Each EDF is concluded for 5 years. The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF runs for 2014 – 2020, a little longer to coincide with the end of the Cotonou
- Germany, France, UK , Italy, Spain are by far the most significant contributors to the EDF (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> )





# Development / Partnership Programmes

- The Commonwealth
  - Voluntary association of 53 independent and equal sovereign states
  - These States generally share a common British heritage/ language.
  - CHOGM - There is a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting which facilitates cooperation
  - The Commonwealth Secretariat provides technical assistance to Governments through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC).
  - The Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) provides opportunities for high level policy dialogue between Government and business leaders



# Development / Partnership Programmes

- **Regional Prosperity Fund**

- This is an initiative of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which seeks to support targeted projects, that promote global and UK growth: Openness, Sustainability, Opportunity and Reputation.

- **DFID**

- The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty, building a safer, healthier, more prosperous. It also takes on the UK's responsibility for UN Global Goals.
- In the Caribbean, DFID most recently supported The Caribbean Aid for Trade and Regional Integration Trust Fund (CARTFUND) managed by the CDB and also Compete Caribbean managed by the IADB.



# Other Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Funding

- GIZ - DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH
- AFD - Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- CANADA'S DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (DFATD)/ CANADIAN BILATERAL PROGRAMMES WITH THE CARIBBEAN
- UN AND WORLD BANK PROGRAMMES
- INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IADB) PROGRAMMES

**Conclusion: Significant development funding in the region.**



# Conclusion

- With or without BREXIT, our main concern should remain fixing the internal business environment and welcoming investment outside of the energy sector;
- With regard to trade, our trading partners within the EU are diverse with countries other than the UK being most important for our energy products;
- Outside of energy, for example in food, the UK remains important although there is beginning to be less geographic concentration and growth in markets such as the Netherlands, Sweden, Malta and Ireland;
- At this stage, it is too early to tell what the implications will be on the EU development programmes where the UK is a major contributor. However, the UK already has in place the structures and instruments to continue development and technical assistance support;
- Based on the development partners and funding in the region, we can conclude that this should not be a concern to us but rather our own business environment is what impacts our growth;
- The UK has such a long history with the Caribbean which we expect will continue but possibly through different instruments in the future.

