

CARICOM
competition
commission



THE CARICOM COMPETITION COMMISSION (CCC)

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMISSION
AND ITS ROLE IN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Presented by:

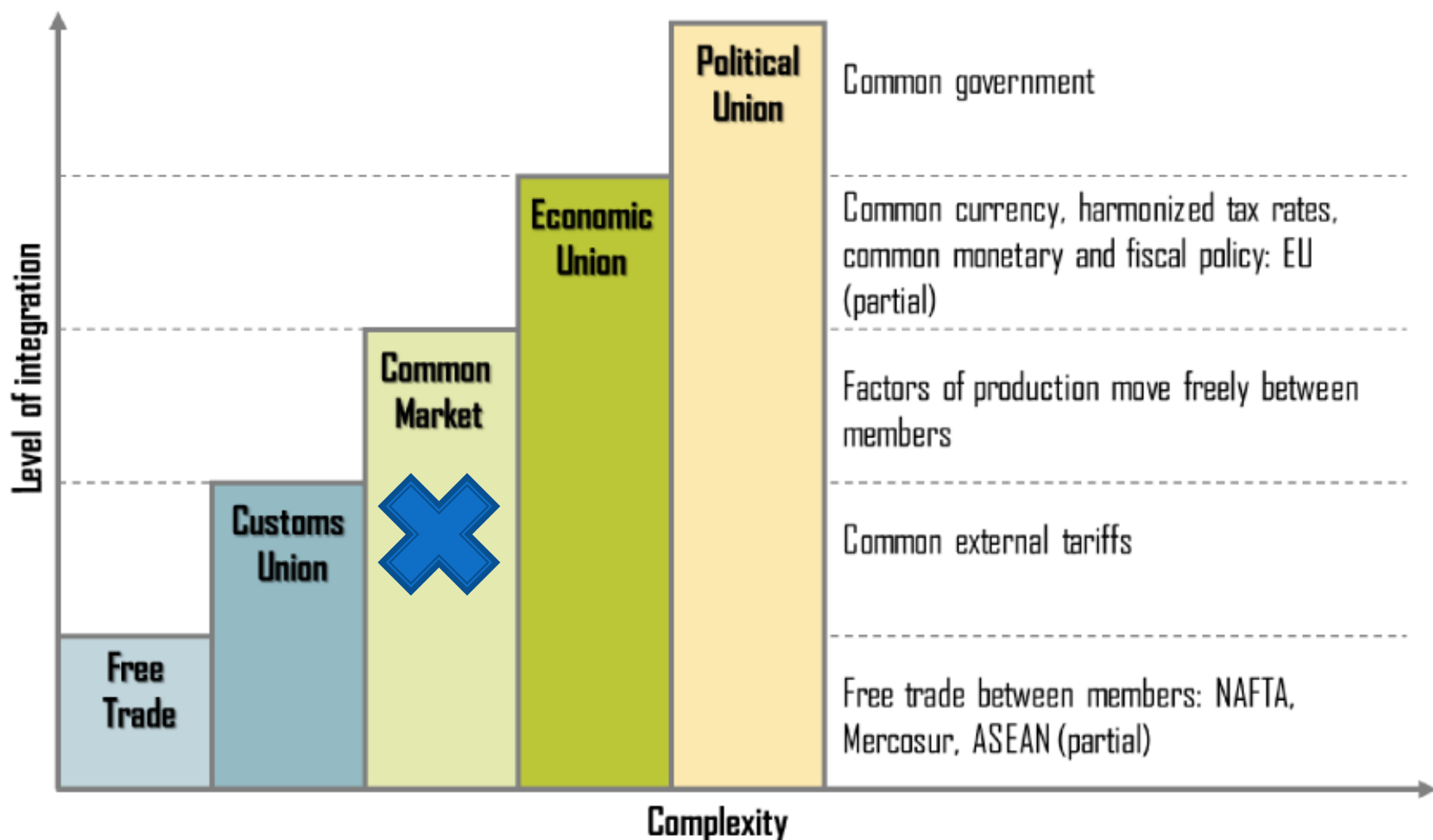
Musa Ali Esq. , Registrar

Barry Headley, Senior Economist

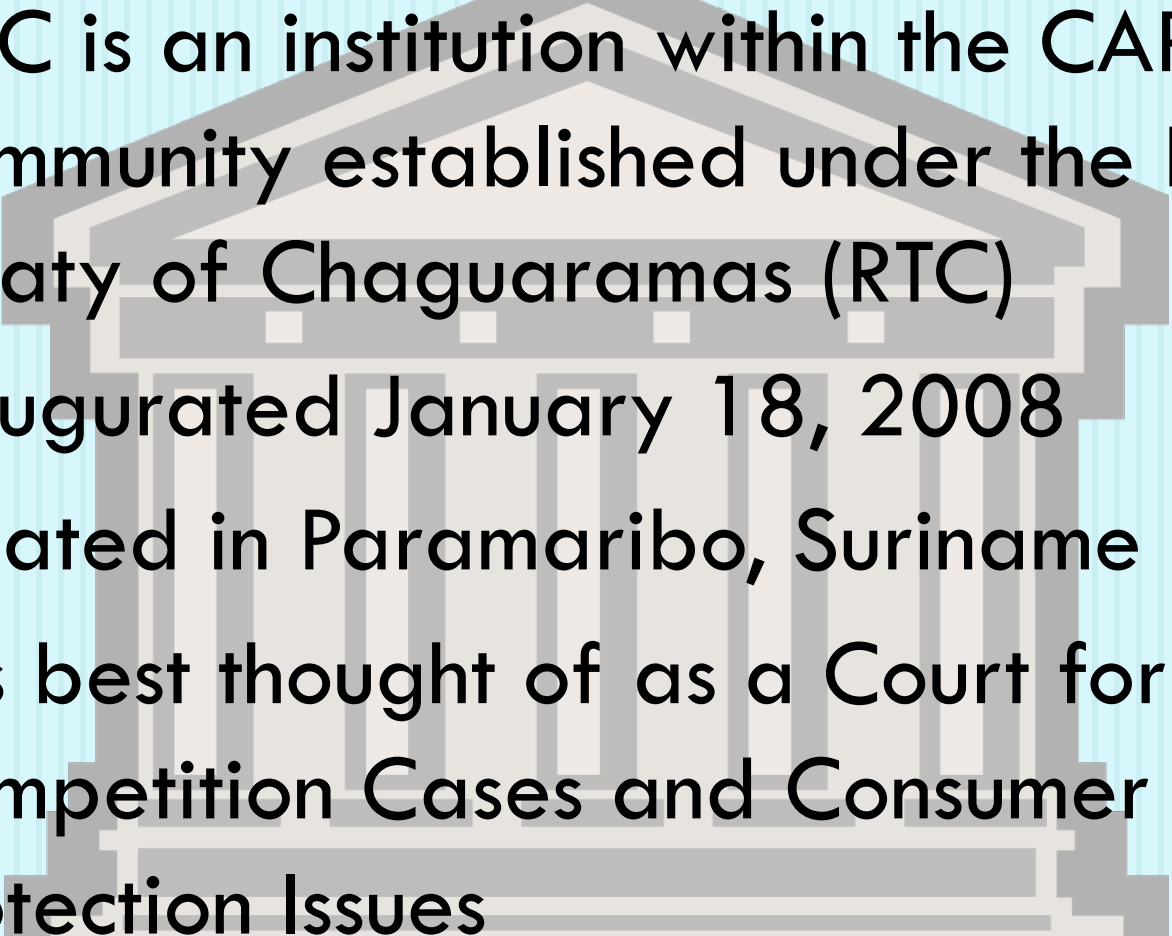
Paramaribo, Suriname

December 15, 2014

LEVELS OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



INTRODUCTION TO THE CCC

- 
- CCC is an institution within the CARICOM Community established under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC)
 - Inaugurated January 18, 2008
 - Located in Paramaribo, Suriname
 - It is best thought of as a Court for Competition Cases and Consumer Protection Issues

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- **The major functions of the Commission under the RTC are to:**
 - ▣ Apply the rules of competition in the CARICOM region
 - ▣ Promote and protect competition in the Community
 - ▣ Advise and work with National Competition bodies on competition issues

IN OTHER WORDS...

The CCC is here to protect businesses from unfair competition and to look after the interests of consumers



WAYS IN WHICH THE COMMISSION CARRIES OUT ITS FUNCTIONS

- Investigate and bring cases against businesses suspected of violation community competition policy
- Technical Support to Member States and National Competition bodies
- Work with Member States to promote consumer welfare
- Education – facilitate information exchange & expertise as well as educate businesses and the general public

POWERS OF THE CCC

- ARTICLE 174 of the RTC
 - Monitor...
 - Investigate...
 - Detect...
 - Make determinations...
 - Take action to inhibit and penalize enterprises...
 - “whose business conduct prejudices trade or prevents, restricts or distorts competition within the CARICOM single market economy”
- Jurisdiction – Important to note that transactions must have a cross border effect before the Commission can exercise its powers

POWERS OF THE CCC (Cont'd)

- The CCC possesses the power to:
 - ▣ Subpoena witnesses
 - ▣ Order discovery or production of documents
 - ▣ Make determinations on business conduct
 - ▣ Order the termination or nullification of agreements, conduct, activities or decisions
 - ▣ Make cease and desist orders
 - ▣ Order payment of compensation
 - ▣ Impose fines

CCC RULES OF PROCEDURE

- Describes how the CCC functions specifically regarding how to commence a case and the steps involved
- Three major steps described:

Investigation

Enquiry

Hearing and
Decision
(Adjudication)

WHAT WE PROMOTE AND REGULATE

- ARTICLE 169: OBJECTIVES
- PROMOTE COMPETITION TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY
- PROHIBITION OF ANTI-COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CONDUCT WHICH PREVENTS, RESTRICTS OR DISTORTS COMPETITION, OR WHICH CONSTITUTES THE ABUSE OF A DOMINANT POSITION IN THE MARKET
- PROMOTION OF CONSUMER WELFARE AND THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER INTERESTS

WHY IS DOMESTIC COMPETITION POLICY IMPORTANT TO SURINAME

Agreements that Suriname is a signatory to:

- The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATTs) and the World Trade Organisation
- The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (Feb. 2001);
- The CARIFORUM-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) – (signed between CARICOM, Dominican Republic and EU in Dec 2008)
- CARICOM-CANADA Trade Agreement (Negotiations)

QUICK QUIZ: QUESTION #1

- ▣ What does CCC stand for?
 - A. Caribbean Commission on Competiton
 - B. CARICOM Commission on Competition
 - C. CARICOM Competiton Commission
 - D. None of the Above

QUICK QUIZ: QUESTION #2

- Which of the following is NOT a power of the CCC?
 - ▣ A. Investigate allegations of anti-competitive business conduct
 - ▣ B. Monitor competition activity in the CARICOM region
 - ▣ C. Arrest business people who are guilty of abusing competition law
 - ▣ D. Subpoena documents to help in investigations

QUICK QUIZ: QUESTION #3

- When did Suriname join CARICOM?
 - A. 1973
 - B. 1991
 - C. 1995
 - D. 2001

END OF PRESENTATION

Thank You!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AS WELL AS AN ONLINE VERSION OF THE CCC'S RULES OF PROCEDURE, OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION, AND LINKS TO AGENCIES OF INTEREST PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE:

Email: REGISTRY@CCC.SR or SENIORECONOMIST@CCC.SR

WWW.CARICOMCOMPETITIONCOMMISSION.COM

Tel: 49 14 55/49 14 70

Hendrikstraat #69, Paramaribo, Suriname