



Trade Research and Statistics Division

“TRADE AT A GLANCE”

BREXIT UPDATE

- Mrs. Theresa May tender her resignation as Prime Minister of The United Kingdom effective 7th June 2019.
- Boris Johnson has been ordered to appear in court over claims he lied by saying the UK gave the EU £350m a week. Johnson has been accused of his misconduct (unprofessionalism) in public office after making the claim during the 2016 EU referendum campaign.



Picture Caption: Economic Growth on the increase in St Kitts and Nevis – CS Global Partners.

OECS HEADLINE NEWS

- The OECS Council of Ministers of Labour successfully commensurate its 1st Meeting on May 13th, 2019 in Barbados.
- Countries who participated in meeting were **Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Montserrat and Saint Kitts and Nevis.**
- The main objectives of the Meeting were:
 1. Review the impact of Temporary Foreign Workers Programme (TFWP) on OECS economies;
 2. understand current situation at the ECLS and supply-country worker processing systems;
 3. confirm findings of the ECLS stakeholder consultations;
 4. consider key recommendations of the 3-year ECLS Strategic Plan;
 5. Consider policy decisions for improvement of the OECS's participation in the TFWP.
 6. discuss the way forward for wider OECS Labour matters in the context of 'Free Movement of People'; and
 7. Seek common positions on wider Labour matters, for participation in the 11th ILO Meeting on Caribbean Ministers of Labour, hosted by Barbados, from 14-15 May 2019.



The OECS Council of Ministers of Labour successfully commensurate its 1st Meeting.

Economic Growth on the increase in St Kitts and Nevis

- St.Kitts-Nevis fiscal growth has continued, projects a steady increase of 3.0% in 2019.
- According to Prime Minister Harris growth has been fostered mainly by the citizenship by investment programme, alongside growing tourism sector and foreign investment opportunities.
- Prime Minister Harris proudly express the steady increase of economic growth over the last fifty years
- St.Kitts-Nevis ranked first in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) according to an Economic review done by the Caribbean Development Bank in March for its public sector debt ratio and primary balance.

WTO HEADLINE NEWS

DG Azevêdo: A system of rules-based trade is crucial for growth and development.

- On 21st May 2019 Director General Roberto Azevedo made his featured address in Paris to the French National Assembly regarding the multilateral trading system.
- According to Azevedo it has been proven that the multilateral trading system is vital for supporting growth and development globally.
- Azevedo expressed the importance of maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system in order to continue to respond efficiently to the challenges of today's world.
- Azevedo concluded and I quote "We have an opportunity to make some essential changes to the trading system. ... It is in the interests of everybody that we preserve and strengthen this essential public good."

Director-General Azevêdo allows Business community to foster energy and ideas to help progress at WTO

- On 22nd May 2019 the Movement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organized its meeting in Paris.
- DG Roberto Azevedo gave an update on the state of play in global trade and on discussions about the reform of the WTO.
- Over the years Azevedo showed gratitude to the business community for their involvement and he continue to urge businesses to engage and to help drive forward the debate on WTO issues.

* For more information log on to <https://www.wto.org>

*For further information go to <https://www.wto.org> (for his featured speech)

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CARICOM HEADLINE NEWS

- The Twenty-Second Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Grenada on the 13-14 May 2019.

SBDC HIGHLIGHTS

Customer Service Training Workshop

- Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) held its first ‘Customer Service Training’ workshop on the 18th May 2019.

The workshop targeted small businesses within the federation. Dr. Christine Walwyn was the presenter for the one day session. At the end of the session each persons or business owner who attended are now better equipped to not only be able to :

1. Communicate effectively with customers
3. Create a positive impression
4. Develop and maintain customer service standards, and lastly
5. Plan good customer service.

According to Delwayne Delaney a Business Advisor/Senior Training Coordinator within the SBDC department expressed that the workshop was of high quality, very effective and interactive session. Business owners also expressed their interest of such timely workshop and was very evident in the high level of participation.



‘Customer Service Training’ workshop on the 18th May 2019

SBDC HIGHLIGHTS CON’T

The 2nd Intra-Commonwealth SME Trade Forum 28th -29th May 2019 ,Nairobi, Kenya

- The 2nd Intra-Commonwealth SME Trade Forum was hosted by the Intra-Commonwealth SME Association and co-organised by Ministry of Industry Trade and Cooperative Kenya, Commonwealth Secretariat, Federation of Indian SME Associations (FISME), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and GBS- Africa.
- The Trade Summit was attended by high-level policymakers and business leaders from more than 20 countries and featured an exhibition space and opportunities for B2B Networking for MSME.
- The Trade Summit provided an opportunity for businesses as well as high-level policymakers to come together on a common platform to discuss and debate some of the topical trade issues which are of interest to the Commonwealth for the deepening intra-Commonwealth trade and investments.
- Mrs. Daniele Richards, Senior Industry Officer within the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs made a presentation at the Trade Summit on “SME Access to Finance” highlighting the challenges SMEs face globally with acquiring finance for start-ups and established businesses. Mrs. Richards further gave insight of SMEs access to finance from the perspective of the Federation and various mechanisms developed by the government to mitigate these challenges. Mrs. Richards emphasized the role of the Small Business Development Center- SBDC St. Kitts as the business support arm of the Ministry of International et al and the services available to SMEs to facilitate their daily operations and acquire financing.
- The summit concluded with ideas shared, networks created, and commitments made to hold fast to the shared values and principles of the Commonwealth.



Mrs. Richards and colleagues at The 2nd Intra-Commonwealth SME Trade Forum Nairobi, Kenya

BUREAU OF STANDARDS HIGHLIGHT

UNECE’s Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development

- It is very evident in today’s society that women are under-represented in molding the standards that affects many areas of our lives. These standards do have major impact on both men and woman alike but affects them differently. It is imperative to note that this hinders the advancement towards gender equality (Sustainable Development goal 5) and therefore threatens the potential of standards as powerful tools to support sustainable development. Due to such cause more than 50 standards organizations from around the world signed the UNECE’s Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development on the 14th May 2019.

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions(BC COP-14,RC COP-9,SC COP-9) Geneva, Switzerland 29 April-10th May 2019

- Mr. Stuart Laplace the Director of the St.Kitts-Nevis Bureau of Standards attended The (BRS COPs) Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conference of Parties was held on the 28th April to 10th May 2019. The Bureau of Standards is the Focal Point for the Stockholm Convention, Ministry of Agriculture is the Rotterdam Convention Focal Point and Ministry of Environment is The Basel Convention Focal Point.
- The topic for discussion at this year’s convention for Stockholm, was the listing of the chemical *PERFLUOROHEXANE SULFONIC ACID* (PFHXS), ITS SALTS AND PFHXS-RELATED COMPOUNDS under Annex A of the Stockholm Convention as a (POP) Persistent Organic Pollutant.
- **Comment:** We recognize PFHXS as a (POP) and would support it been listed as such under Annex A of the Stockholm Convention as a danger to the environment and the Biota where it is produced or used.
- **Justification:** The compounds of PFHXS and its derivatives are not easily removed if at all from the environment. While we understand its use across various industries, most of which does not exist in our country, we can also appreciated that we are indirect contributors to its use through trade of it’s by products.

BUREAU OF STANDARDS HIGHLIGHTS CON'T

We are frequent visitors of countries like the United States where its use or overuse in some instances, opens up opportunity for direct and indirect accumulation through ingestion of food and water.

- PFHXS would exist in our country on a very small scale where manufacturing of electrical and semiconductors do take place. Notwithstanding the obvious release to the environment eventually, we can acknowledge that PFHXS can Bio-accumulate in our reefs which can eventually find its way into our food. The very nature of *PERFLUOROHEXANE SULFONIC ACID* does not allow cleavage or degradation within one's life time. In fact, it can be redistributed from mothers to children for generations and become responsible for several ailments that could be plaguing our growth and development as healthy individuals.
- There is too much uncertainty with PFHXS because there is a lot of research still ongoing and it's always best to err on the side of caution. With all the research and studies done on the effects of PFHXS, it's hard to overlook that it is having a negative impact on many Biota where manufactured and should be indeed listed Under Annex A of the Stockholm Convention.
- The GEF ECW Meeting in St. Lucia, involved all the focal points for both countries and conventions across the Caribbean. I was invited by GEF as the Bureau is the Focal Point for Stockholm. It was effort to show linkages, best practices, project formulation processes and the inter connectivity and roles of The GEF with donor agencies and focal points. They outlined the process of applying for GEF funding and the path the applications takes throughout the GEF frame work. They indicated who can get funding and under what circumstances. We also got to interact with project recipients of GEF Funding and looked at their demonstration models.



Mr.Laplace and colleagues at Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions(BC COP-14,RC COP-9,SC COP-9) Geneva, Switzerland 29 April-10th May 2019



TRADE HIGHLIGHT

1st Regulatory Connectivity Cluster Meeting

Mr. Philip Browne & Ms. Latoya Prentice-Davis represented the Ministry of International Trade, Industry & Commerce and by extension the Government of St Kitts & Nevis at the 1st Regulatory Connectivity Cluster Meeting held by the Commonwealth Secretariat. This meeting was held on May 15-16 2019 in London, UK, under the theme "Improving the Environment for MSME's".

According to the attendees, the core of discussions were focused around the creation enabling environments for business enterprises, With the aim of enhancing the "Ease of doing Business" in member states. In addition, further dialogue centered around, matters Relevant to good regulatory practices. Member States have agreed to work to identify the next steps for enhancing the ease of doing business and also encouraged the Secretariat to compile a collection of case studies of the best practices submitted by member states.

This exercise is just one of the many Capacity Building Initiatives aims to strength the work of the Ministry as it continues to be of tremendous service to the populace.

TRADE JOKES CORNER

Funniest jokes about BREXIT:

- **Joke:** How will Christmas dinner be different after Brexit?
Laugh: No Brussels.
- **Joke:** What did Britain say to its trade partners?
Laugh: See EU later
- **Joke:** Brexit was like the UK got drunk and accidentally unfriended Europe on Facebook

Laugh: Leo Karse

NB:

Once you follow the issues surrounding Brexit then you will be able to follow the jokes.

**Next issue of
"TRADE AT A GLANCE"
will be publish in
JUNE 2019**

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