

**Press Release 61/1996**

(October 21, 1996)

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCHING OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE  
CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TOWARDS THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, 21 OCTOBER 1996**

It is with great satisfaction that the Bureau of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in pursuance of a decision of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, and the Government of the Dominican Republic, taking into account the potential for enhanced trade relations between the Caribbean Common Market and the Dominican Republic,

**Today Announced their Agreement**

1. to launch negotiation between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Government of the Dominican Republic at the beginning of 1997, with a view to establishing a Free Trade Agreement between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic;
2. the Agreement will seek to provide access to originating products of CARICOM Member States to the market of the Dominican Republic, and similarly, to originating products of the Dominican Republic to the markets of CARICOM Member States, free of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, with certain qualifications;
3. it is expected that the Free Trade Agreement will strengthen trade relations and promote investment between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic, with the ultimate aim of improving the living conditions of the Peoples of the countries involved.

Issued simultaneously in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, and Georgetown, Guyana

CARICOM Secretariat  
Georgetown, Guyana