

Judge Catherine SARGENTI
President of the ACP Legal Association

15 September 2021

Sir Dennis BYRON
Former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
President of the CARO Centre

Patrick VIAL-COLLET
President of the Chambre of Commerce and Industry of the Guadeloupe Islands

Email: secretariat@carohadac.org

To the attention of Ms Kim Aikman
CEO of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and
Industry
#4792 Coney Drive First Floor of Withfield Tower
BELIZE CITY, Belize

Via email

Subject: Opening of the OHADAC Regional Arbitration Centre

Dear Ms Aikman,

We write to inform you of the upcoming launch of the activities of the OHADAC Regional Arbitration Centre ("CARO Centre") as of 27 September 2021, thanks to European Union development funds from the Interreg V program.

The CARO Centre is a non-profit organization, located in Guadeloupe, France. The creation of the CARO Centre is part of the implementation of the "OHADAC" project, the "Organization for the Harmonization of Business law in the Caribbean". This project was started in 2007 at the initiative of the ACP Legal Association. Its objectives are similar to the OHADA's (the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business law in Africa) in Western Africa. It pursues the objective of legal integration in the Caribbean region, of 33 States with a coast on the Caribbean Sea. During the first phase of this project, a range of model legislation was drafted in the field of business law, which was proposed for adoption to Caribbean States.

The creation of the CARO Centre in Guadeloupe represents the "arbitration and mediation" phase of the OHADAC project. This phase is implemented by the Guadeloupe Chamber of Commerce and Industry as project leader, and the ACP Legal Association. This institution will offer a variety of services in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution (arbitration, mediation, facilitation, expertise). Its objective is to bring legal security to companies and institutions in the perspective of enhanced regional cooperation.

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The services proposed will be accessible and flexible, and the panels of arbitrators and mediators will reflect the diversity of the Caribbean region. A specific feature of this Centre lies in the promotion of sustainable development in the region, by supporting all economic players irrespective of their size; proposing “tailor-made” dispute resolution techniques capable of supporting the actions of Caribbean institutions; and having a track record of proposing free services in times of crisis, for instance in the wake of a natural disaster.

The CARO Centre, currently in creation, is presided over by Sir Dennis Byron, former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Board of the CARO Centre is composed of internationally renowned specialists in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution, as well as long-time supporters of the OHADAC project, who are willing to contribute to the development of the Caribbean region.

You will find more precise information on our services and the objectives we pursue in the attached brochure and on our website.

We look forward to collaborating with your institution in the near future, in the context of the deployment of the CARO Centre’s activities in the region.

Such collaboration could involve, as a first step, sharing this communication within your network.

We remain at your disposal to provide any additional information which you may require.

Best regards,

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Encl.: Brochure of the CARO Centre