SESSION 8: Border Control Management: Systems, Tools and Arrangements

"OECS EFFORTS TO HARMONIZE BORDER MANAGEMENT AMONG MEMBER STATES"

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QUICK PEEK

1. **INTRODUCING THE OECS REGION:**
   - Member States
   - The Revised Treaty of Basseterre (RTB)
   - The Major Pillars/Regimes

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE:**
   - Member States Efforts
   - Regional Efforts

3. **INSTITUTIONAL & LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**:
   - CARICOM Impacs
   - APIS Legislation

MEMBER STATES

❖ There are now ten (10) Member States:

❖ Full Member States (also called Protocol Member States) including – Antigua and Barbuda; The Commonwealth of Dominica; Grenada; Montserrat; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

❖ Associate Member States including – Anguilla; The British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Martinique (joined February 2015).

❖ The OECS Region has a population of approximately 1.2 Million (WDI estimates) and a combined GDP of approximately less than US$6 Billion (WDI estimates).

❖ The OECS is governed by the Revised Treaty of Basseterre (RTB) which was signed on June 18th, 2010.

❖ The Protocol of Eastern Caribbean Economic Union (ECEU) of the RTB mandates the establishment of an Economic Union.

Articles 4 -10 (Customs Union & Free Circulation Regimes)

Articles 22-23 (Movement of Services)

Article 12 – Movement of Persons

GOALS OF THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS REGIME

❖Facilitating Ease of Movement of People (use of national issued ID Card/relaxing requirement for national passports, relaxing the use of drivers license).

❖Creating an integrated labour market (No work permit requirement, access to national social insurance arrangement).

❖Indefinite Stay and OECS Contingent Rights Policy

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

❖ Protecting the OECS Space requires the harmonization of administrative procedures among Member States.

❖ Protocol Member States are the first line of Defense.

❖ Benefiting from the FMP Regime requires that citizens of the Protocol Member States provide evidence of citizenship (i.e. National ID Cards, Birth Certificate, Passport).

❖ Protocol Member States will grant Indefinite Stay to an OECS citizen based on demonstarted evidence of citizenship **(placement of an Indefinite Stay Stamp in the National Passport issued by an OECS Protocol Member State).**

THE ROLE(S) OF THE MEMBER STATES

❖Procedures within the Member States need to be Robust in this regard – protecting the OECS Space is a collective effort.

This means:

❖Issuing National ID Cards that possess adequate security features;
❖Issuing Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) that meet ICAO Standards.

THE REGIONAL EFFORTS/AGENDA

❖ Production of an Identical National ID Card for all OECS Protocol Member States (same security features, same details i.e. names, nationality etc.)

❖ Strengthening of Border Management Systems:

(i) promoting BMSs that promote greater interoperability of the systems and; (Ii) reducing per-capita cost.

❖ Creating a system/form for the documentation of Citizens from OECS Protocol Member States that are traveling without documentations following a disaster.

❖ Developing a system to allow for the operations of a Single Domestic Space

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

❖ OECS works within the CARICOM Framework with respect to Border Security Matters.

❖ CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM Impacs) with sub-agencies including the Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) and the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC) – addresses matters of crime and security within the CARICOM Space (including the OECS)

❖ JRCC provides for a clearing house for relevant passenger information. Within 10 years JRCC had over 30,000 hits and thus far in 2017 has reviewed over 40 million passenger information.

❖ Supporting the work of CARICOM Impacs are various committees including the Committees of Chiefs of Immigration and Comptrollers of Customs.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

❖ Advance Cargo Passenger Information System (ACIS);

❖ Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) (Implemented by Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada) –

- to facilitate the provision of advance information relating to passengers and crew members of an aircraft or vessel;

- to share the information with other States with a view to identifying the persons who may pose risks to security; and for matters connected therewith.

CONCLUSION

❖ Border management/security is both the business of the individual Member States and the regional organisation

❖ Main focus at the Regional/OECS Level includes:

(i)   National ID Card Harmonization and;

(ii) Strengthening Border Management Systems (BMSs)

Economic Union Video on Free Movement of People

https://youtu.be/zwLCNuX7ft0

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