

CCJ FINANCING INTERESTS OTHER COURTS

Government Information Service, Port of Spain, May 2, 2005. Several courts around the world are enquiring about the way the recently inaugurated Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is being financed.

CCJ Court Executive Administrator, Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne, told a group of Communication Specialists in the Public Service at their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 28, that the enquires have come from the European Union Court, the Mercusor grouping in South America, the Andean Court as well as from other Caribbean countries.

The CCJ is financed through a US\$100 million trust fund raised by the Caribbean Development Bank. A board of trustees made up of persons in finance, labour, academia, law and the judiciary, oversees the investment of these funds, the interest from which will fund the court in perpetuity. Caricom member states will repay the initial sum over time.

The funding mechanism, intended to insulate the CCJ from perceptions of political influence, is unique as most courts are directly financed by governments.

The CCJ is currently working on rules of court for both its original and appellate jurisdictions before it throws open its doors to determine disputes. It will not replace national courts but rather will determine disputes arising from the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas in its original jurisdiction and for Barbados and Guyana, function as the final court of appeal.

In its original jurisdiction, the CCJ will hear disputes from individuals and companies relating to the operations of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

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