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PRESS RELEASE

AMBASSADOR EDMUNDS PANELIST ON US - CARICOM TRADE & INVESTMENT RELATIONS WEBINAR



Present: A Webinar Series on

US-CARICOM TRADE & INVESTMENT RELATIONS

Washington D.C. - On December 14, Ambassador Edmunds participated as a panelist on the webinar titled "US Entities involved in US-CARICOM Trade and Investment Policy". A paper authored by Stephen Lande set the stage for engagement by the Ambassador, former US Ambassador Patrick Duddy of Duke University and Mr. Jason Marczak of the Atlantic Council. The event was a collaboration between the University of the West Indies' (UWI) Shridath Ramphal Centre (SRC), The United States Embassy in Barbados and The Caribbean Policy Consortium (CPC).

Ambassador Edmunds cautioned that while there is a need for a renewed US-Caribbean engagement in competitive industries such as services, and opportunities for nearshoring as the paper suggested, the overriding question to be answered is who will be the entity or entities advancing the Caribbean's interest. He highlighted that even though there is a new administration in Washington, the window for successful engagement is closing fast, considering the wide variety of global demands facing leadership in Washington - including a mid-term election on the horizon. Any new effort at engagement must also not overlook existing arrangements that need funding and attention. Further, that knowledge of and engagement beyond the multiple US government agencies usually involved is critical, notable is that Congress is too often overlooked by the region.

The webinar can be found [here](#) and the discussion paper [here](#).