

DECISION N° 528

ACCESSION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES TO SELA

THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL,

CONSIDERING:

That the Panama Convention establishing the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) was signed on 17 October 1975 in Panama City, Panama;

That Article 5 of the Panama Convention establishes the objectives of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System as follows:

**First:** To promote regional cooperation, with a view to attaining self-sustained, independent and integral development.

**Second:** To support the integration processes of the region and encourage coordination among them, or with Members States of SELA, particularly with respect to those activities aimed at promoting greater harmonization, duly respecting the commitments made within the framework of such processes.

**Third:** To promote the formulation and implementation of economic and social programmes and projects of interest to the Members States.

**Fourth:** To act as a mechanism for consultation and coordination within Latin America for the purpose of formulating common positions and strategies on economic and social matters before third countries, groups of countries and in international organizations and forums.

**Fifth:** To promote within the context of the objectives of SELA relating to intra-regional cooperation means to ensure preferential treatment for the relatively less developed countries and special measures for countries with limited markets and for those whose landlocked condition affects their development.

CONSIDERING:

That, in order to duly comply with such objectives, it is advisable to ensure the accession to SELA of those Latin American and Caribbean countries that are not Members as yet;

That, to date, several Eastern Caribbean States are not Member States of SELA;

RECALLING:

That on previous occasions the Permanent Secretary has been entrusted with the task of promoting the accession of those Eastern Caribbean States to SELA;

DECIDES:

To request the Permanent Secretary of SELA to continue making arrangements with the Member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) so that they join SELA.