



**Speech by Alexandre Barreto de Souza  
President of the Administrative Council for  
Economic Defense – CADE, Brazil at the inaugural  
session**

**Economic and Technical Cooperation**

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Your Excellency, Minister of Justice, Mr Torquato Jardim;

Your Excellency, Minister of the Federal Court of Accounts, Mr Vital do Rêgo;

Your Excellency, Head of the Department of Competition and Consumer Policies of UNCTAD,  
Mrs Teresa Moreira;

Your Excellency, Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System,  
Mr Javier Paulinich;

Distinguished representatives of the Authorities in charge of Trade and Competition of Latin America  
and the Caribbean;

Distinguished representatives of international and regional organizations, consultants and  
academicians;

Distinguished and dear colleagues of CADE, of national agencies in charge of trade and competition  
and regulations, associations and think tanks:

Welcome you all to Brasilia!

It is a special honour for us to host this Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Competition,  
which this year marks eight years of existence where it originated, here in Brazil.

In 2010, Brasilia was the venue of a regional seminar on trade and competition organized by  
UNCTAD and SELA. As a result of that seminar, the Member States of SELA recommended the Latin  
American Council to establish the Working Group on Trade and Competition (WGTC) in order to  
discuss issues of common interest for Latin American and Caribbean countries, exchange  
experiences and promote reflections to solve the common challenges faced by these countries.

Over the last few years, the WGTC has held meetings in Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Dominican  
Republic, Ecuador, Honduras and El Salvador. In each meeting, the debates undertaken on the  
important subjects of trade and competition have built the solid and synergistic group that gathers  
here today.

The presence of representatives from 20 countries, international and regional institutions and several  
Brazilian institutions only reinforces the notion of the importance of this group for the Latin American  
and Caribbean scenario.

For CADE, this opportunity has a unique relevance, because in the end, strengthening cooperation  
with Latin America and the Caribbean has a prominent role among our priorities for the coming  
years.

In addition, ports are fundamental structures for the proper functioning of an economy. In Brazil, for  
example, ports are responsible for the flow of about 95% of foreign trade. Thus, any anti-competitive  
behaviour in port activities may adversely affect other sectors of the economy, generating serious  
effects for the final consumer.

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Bearing in mind the importance and the challenges of this sector, CADE is focusing on this matter. Our record on the port services market in the country is an example of the efforts that we have undertaken to promote competition in the industry. In CADE, we still have several investigation procedures on possible anti-competitive behaviours in this segment.

As a result of this meeting of the WGTC, especially, we have delved deeper into this subject, and have drafted another study on the sector of port services and maritime transport in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be presented next. After the valuable contributions of participants, this study will become an important source of information.

Speaking on behalf of the Brazilian competition authority, I am certain that the exchange of knowledge and experiences with our Latin American and Caribbean neighbours will be highly productive in order to discuss our thoughts about the sector, ensuring a healthy competitive scenario in this important segment of the economy, thus generating greater economic efficiency and consumer well-being.

We will make our best efforts to ensure that everybody's expectations are met and that we conclude these two days of productive discussions even more committed and united than we were when we arrived here, so as to favour the strengthening of the competition scenario in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This year, we will discuss the interface between competition and trade policy, maritime transport and port services in competition in Latin America and the Caribbean. After all, we understand how important this market is for the region and, above all, for Brazil.

I wish you all very fruitful debates.

Once again, be warmly welcome and good work for you all.