

Dear chairman and members of the Committee on Kingdom Relations of the Second Chamber,

I hereby offer you the e-mail I have just sent to the Government Commissioner and his deputy on Saint Eustatius.

I would ask you to take this message on board in your meeting of 13 September next.

may I also ask you to send any further correspondence by e-mail (because the regular mail to/from Saint Eustatius takes a disproportionate amount of time...)?

Thank you in advance and greet you kindly,

Ir. J.H.T. (Jan) Meijer MBA.

Start redirected message:

From: Jan Meijer and Mia van Deelen <jhtm.nl@gmail.com
Date: 12 August 2018 at 20:50:45 GMT-4
On: "marcolino (mike) franco" <reg-commissaris@statiagov.com, "mervyn (m.k.m) stegers" <wnd-reg-commissaris@statiagov.com
Copy: cie.kr@tweedekamer.nl
Subject: Unconditional Basic Income as a "weapon" in the fight against poverty

Mike, Mervyn,

Today I listened with interest to the radio interview with Mervyn for listeners on St. Eustatius.

In the discussion, the fight against poverty (on St. Eustatius) is put forward as an important spearhead.

In this context, Mervyn refers, among other things, to

1. The Hague as a forum for solving this problem, and
2. 13 September as the date on which the Committee on Kingdom Relations put the subject "Existence minimum Caribbean Netherlands" on the agenda.

In this way, we would like to consider whether the 'Unconditional Basic Income' approach could help in this respect.

I know that there are both supporters and opponents of the concept.

At the same time, it seems to me that St. Eustatius - or rather the Caribbean Netherlands - is pre-eminently a location where, with tax legislation specifically applicable to this area, starting points and preconditions can be agreed upon and realised in order to examine in this limited environment whether the concept can contribute to an effective fight against poverty.

Admittedly, it's not a simple decision. On the contrary, it seems to me that a project group with experts in different, adjacent areas of interest should determine the right frameworks and guidelines. This takes time and may be a deterrent.

On the other hand, it seems to me that the problem is too important, that some experiments in the world are too promising and that the opportunity is too "ideal" not to seriously examine the approach based on the "insalubrious basic income" in advance.

Note: By "ideal" I do not of course mean poverty as such, but rather the particular situation that the "public body" by definition offers in order to make specific legislation effective quickly and efficiently. It goes without saying that it must be 'measured' after a period agreed in advance whether the approach has indeed led to a reduction in poverty.

I would appreciate it if I could receive an acknowledgement of receipt (of this proposal).

With kind regards,

J.H.T. (Jan) Meijer MBA,
Bellevueroad 4,
St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean.