

Dear Chairman and members of the Education, Culture and Science Committee,

On 28 January 2020, you submitted a motion (i.e. motion 35 000 VIII no. 146, submitted by members Kuiken and Paternotte) aimed at a good connection of students with a CSEC study programme (from the CXC portfolio) to a study at the hbo in the European Netherlands.

Shortly thereafter, a CXC Decision will be consulted (from 12 February to 18 March 2020). It seems reasonable to expect that the regulations will be available and effective not too long after that (for example before the summer vacations of the schools). The concept called "1 August 2020", in line with my "reasonable expectation".

And now it is as good as September 2020 (the new school year has started, at least on St. Eustatius) and there is still no CXC Decision. The cause may be clear (in this case minOCW has given the file too little attention and priority for too long), but at least in part there *is* a content. After all, there *is* a document for the consultation period.

It may be that minOCW is now of the opinion, whether or not after consultation with the schools concerned, that further details need to be given.

As far as it is possible (no, very likely) to date. *How to proceed?* It seems to me that we are at a crossroads:

1. first improve the existing concept and then publish it, or
2. publish the existing concept and in the meantime work on an improved version.

Bearing in mind Voltaire, I would like to inform the Minister - through your intervention - that "*perfection is the enemy of good*". By not spending anything now and waiting a few more months (?), the undesirable situation will be maintained for a while. The institutes of higher professional education and the schools where vwo education is given in the European Netherlands remain ignorant of CXC education, while potential students with a CSEC-diploma can still apply (e.g. for a study that starts halfway through an academic year).

Therefore, I would like to make a plea for an early publication of the CXC Decision which includes what is already known and an improved version after the currently outstanding points have been filled out in more detail. Matters that are already known, such as perhaps the content of the profiles, can then form the basis for the choices that will be made in the third year.

A point that certainly needs further elaboration because it is not addressed in the version that is the subject of the consultation, is the "connection" of exams of which the results are not known before the middle of August/September, to the enrolment in the European Netherlands, which must often already have taken place by May.

May I ask you - *in view of your procedural consultation on Thursday, September 3rd* - to urgently request the Minister to issue the CXC Decree as soon as possible (as also referred to by you in the motion, cited in the first paragraph), after which, if necessary and as required, an improved version will see the light of day. Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

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cc: chairman and members of the Commission on Kingdom Relations