

Dear Chairman and members of the Justice and Security Committee,

Due to the fact that the notarized place of residence for Saba and St. Eustatius has not been filled in, the inhabitants of these two islands are dependent on St. Maarten for notarized matters.

Geographically there is something to be said for this: after all, the three islands are in each other's vicinity.

Initially a notary came from St. Maarten to Saba and St. Eustatius on a regular basis but these services have 'evaporated' over the years with the result that the residents of Saba and St. Eustatius now have to fly to St. Maarten. You will understand that this is quite cost-increasing. It has been complained about more than once but this has never led to a permanent solution until now.

At the moment the notarial services on St. Eustatius seems to be another point of attention. At least, the government commissioner on St. Eustatius announces this evening in a radio broadcast on the island that he has had contact with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Security as well as 'stakeholders' on St. Maarten.

The effect pursued by the Government Commissioner is that notary(s) on St. Maarten also provide their services on St. Eustatius (and Saba). Whether these agreements also consider the long(er) term is not clear to me.

However, when I consider that St. Maarten is an independent 'country' within the Kingdom of the Netherlands while the islands of St. Eustatius and Saba (as well as Bonaire) as a 'public body' are part of the 'country' of the Netherlands, is it not much more obvious - in line with the BES Notary's Act - to seek connection with Bonaire?

After all, I can imagine that a permanent acting by a notary's office on Bonaire on Sint Eustatius and Saba does not have to be very complicated from an organizational point of view. When this notary's office is held periodically on St. Eustatius and Saba, the matter seems to me to be easily solved.

May I ask you to put this item on the agenda in your consultations with the Minister? And when the above is indeed the most practical way of working, may I then ask you to give the Minister some consideration to make it happen in practice?

Thank you in advance!

Kind regards,

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*cc: Chairman and members of the Commission Kingdom Relations
cc: Government commissioner on St. Eustatius*