

Dear Chairman and Members of the Justice and Security Committee,

On September 1, 2020, I wrote to you regarding the notarial services for (Saba and) St. Eustatius. This letter was cc: addressed to the Government Commissioner on St. Eustatius.

From him I received a reaction that same day; this reaction is cc: addressed to you.

That response states that the civil-law notaries on St. Maarten are currently the only ones authorized to perform notarial services on St. Eustatius and Saba.

It will be so. At the moment I again hear of flights from St. Eustatius to St. Maarten in order to get the same kind of services provided.

For the record: in September 2020 it concerned flights of notaries from Sint Maarten to Sint Eustatius, while now there is talk of (expensive) flights from Sint Eustatius to Sint Maarten.

The government commissioner further states "*Notwithstanding the fact that the option you raised is worth exploring, it does not offer a solution at this time [...]*".

We are now almost half a year on and, moreover, it is not so much an option raised by me: it has been existing legislation - i.e. the BES Notary Act - since July 1, 2015 (!).

In short, in my opinion, the solution sought and found at the time by the Government Commissioner which, he states, was coordinated with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Security and the notaries, was not needed at all.

The "solution" currently found (i.c. clients flying to St. Maarten) seems to be on the path taken earlier (in line with the comment of the Government Commissioner: "*That can be repeated next time*").

However, a structural solution, as indicated in the penultimate paragraph of my letter of September 1, 2020 (attached) that is in line with the aforementioned Law on the Notary Profession BES as well as with the existing constitutional relationships within the Kingdom, still seems desirable to me.

Perhaps this, "option raised by me" has been investigated in the meantime. I will be interested to hear the result.

Kind regards,

J.H.T. (Jan) Meijer MBA,
Bellevue Road 4, Upper Round Hill,
St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands.

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

Attachments:

1. *My letter of September 1, 2020*
2. *The response of the government commissioner of September 1, 2020*