

Dear chairman and members of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Climate Change,

It may be small things, but they are often the very things that cause irritation. I am thinking of the daily and prompt delivery of mail.

In the European Netherlands it is normal that when you post a letter, it is delivered elsewhere in the country the next day. So much for the European Netherlands; let's move on to the Caribbean Netherlands.

The fact that the turnaround time for mail delivery is a matter of weeks or months is sometimes a charming aspect of the hassle-free tropical living environment, but at the same time it is extremely annoying when the request for a "proof of life" takes so long that in the meantime the benefit has been stopped.

Or when a decision or ruling has been made and is delivered by mail, against which an objection can be made within a certain period of time - say, six weeks - but that period of time has already expired by the time the decision or ruling is delivered to you.

Even a vacation greeting from China is delivered in the Netherlands faster than regular mail from the (European) Netherlands to the (Caribbean) Netherlands, or vice versa. The point of "the other way around" is indeed objectionable but at the same time easier to circumvent. Many agencies are digitally accessible.

As a person, with normal air travel, you can arrive at any other place in the world within one or two days. Surely a mail item must be able to reach its destination within a few days. And I am talking now mainly about mail that is sent from the European Netherlands to the Caribbean Netherlands (and the other way around).

Note: From the European to the Dutch Caribbean: transit time up to three or four months; from the Caribbean to the European Netherlands seems to be faster, but still two or three weeks.

And don't start an investigation: this problem has existed for years and has also been known for years (to you), only so far nobody has done anything about it. And don't come up with the pandemic as an excuse, causing air traffic worldwide to operate with reduced frequency. No, the annoyance was already there well before the pandemic. A post from about two years ago (well before the pandemic, that is) already commented on this (see <https://caribischnetwork.ntr.nl/2019/08/08/geduld-raakt-op-kritiek-op-nederlands-ingrijpen-op-sint-eustatius-groeit/>) and the situation is still unchanged.

I'm not introduced to the matter but I imagine it shouldn't be very particularly difficult to go through the chain of mail delivery and eliminate the bottlenecks and especially the potential blockages and hold all parties involved to the existing (?) agreements. But then someone has to put that point on the agenda.

May I hereby request the latter from you? I look forward to your message on this subject (or of course I'll see the mail delivery improve ;-))

With kind regards,

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Cc: Chairman and members of the Kingdom Relations Committee